

Genesis 23,24

Genesis 23 describes Abraham's mourning for the loss of his wife Sarah. The passage then goes into a description of the bartering for the cave to bury her. In the East there is still this honorific way of doing business. At first it seems very polite, but it is an art form trying to get the best deal while still looking very generous. I have experienced it personally. I didn't know what hit me because at the time I was totally ignorant of how it was done. I went away very upset because the man made me look like an ungrateful fool for not paying an inflated price. Later I watched another man barter for the same piece of property. He was a native and ended up with a deal about 35% less than I was asked to pay and both parties looked generous. It is quite a different culture. Abraham declares again that he is an alien and stranger in this world.

Genesis 24

1 Abraham would be about 137. Because he was a man of faith and faithful to hear and obey the Living God, God in turn blessed him in every way, spiritually and physically.

2 Is this still Eleazar? He is unnamed here and in a sense could be a picture of the Holy Spirit looking for a bride for the Son. The hand under the thigh must have been a way of signifying the vow was of importance.

3,4 Abraham was Chaldean and had last lived in Haran before wandering through Caanan. Before that he was from Ur.

5 Normal question. The servant is afraid his master will die and the mission fail. Then the son, Isaac, may take a local woman.

6,7 Abraham knew that God would do what needed to be done and relays the promise to his servant. The land will belong to his Seed. Ultimately that is Jesus.

8 But if... Sometimes people do not understand our confidence so we must give them an alternative to go on.

9 -12 Abraham had taught his servants to pray to JHWH.

13,14 He prays that his circumstances are from God and that in them God will reveal who the woman is to be. He puts out a conditional circumstance to confirm. Camels drink a lot of water. A woman that would do that is very kind and generous and strong. That would be a wonderful helpmeet for his master's son.

15 Sometimes our prayers are answered as we pray. I have had that happen in little ways just to encourage me that God is a very real friend and is concerned about the details of our lives.

16,17 The servant does not sit silently but asks for a drink to see what will transpire.

18,19 That expression must have sent chills down his spine. WoW How quickly and completely God answers prayer according to his will.

20,21 He is still wondering if this is certainly the answer to the prayer. When God does answer so quickly we are often uncertain that it may be coincidence and seek for confirmation.

22 He rewards her for her labor and lets her know he is not just a poor traveller that has stolen some camels.

23 –25 Now he knows for this is Abraham's relative.

26 He has seen Abraham worship when God has worked in his life and now he does the same. God has answered prayer in a wonderful way and he turns to God with a grateful heart.

27-33 He's on a mission to serve his Master and can't wait to see if God is at work in these situations.

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42-48 He is convinced it is God but will they be?

49,50 Whew! They did see the hand of God in it all and believed.

51,52 He worships, knowing God has heard his prayer and that of his master, and answered it.

53-56 He is anxious to get back to Isaac and Abraham and tell them what the Lord has done.

57-59 Ah! Here we see he was not alone. Why then did they not draw the water? Did he have them hide and wait? Travelling with wealth cross country in those days was a dangerous venture. Some of the army he defeated the kings with were with him. If this is a shadow of the Holy Spirit searching for the bride

of Christ who is asked if she will leave family for her groom, then who are these men - angels sent to those who will be heirs of salvation.

60-62 This is the well Hagar named for the Living One Who Sees Me.

63,64 Love at first sight? Ahhhh

65 Veils are not a Muslim tradition but an ancient Middle Eastern one of modesty.

66,67 Marriage in these days was sexual union at permission of the parents. Then they would have a celebration for a week. Isaac missed his mom and though a wife does not replace a mom, she can bring a similar comfort.