

Sunday School Notes 1 March 2020 Genesis 24: Choosing a wife!

Abraham knew that Isaac was a special part of God's plan to bless the nations of the earth.

It was important therefore that Isaac did not simply become another member of a local idol-worshipping Canaanite family. So Abraham asked his oldest most trusted servant to return to Haran to find a wife who knew God for Isaac there.

Isaac himself was not to go back to the old land. Abraham knew the woman who was chosen must be prepared to join Isaac where God had put them.

And so the servant set off, with 10 camels laden with gifts. (We think his name was Eliezar.) When he got to the city, he asked God to guide his choice – the girl who provided a drink for him and who offered his camels a drink was to be the one.

As he prayed, a beautiful girl called Rebekah was coming to the well. When he asked, she offered him, and his camels, water. She then told him that she was Isaac's cousin and the servant knew God had answered his prayer. He was in the right place, just where God wanted him to be. He thanked her and showed his joy by giving her two gold bracelets and a nose-ring.

The girl's brother was called Laban. He was very impressed when he saw the gifts and took the servant to their home. Before even eating, the servant told the girl's father and brother of his errand. When they heard the amazing story, they agreed that this was God's plan. Immediately the match was made. Gifts were exchanged and there was general rejoicing.

The next day, the servant wanted to be off at once, but Rebecca's family asked for a last 10 days together. When Rebekah was asked, she was happy to go off immediately. Did she really trust God? Or was she just game for adventure? We don't know. But she and her attendant set off that day.

When they arrived at Isaac's home, she caught sight of him and got ready to meet him by putting on her veil – as a bride would. And God gave them love as well as marriage.

Like Sarah, Rebekah struggled to have a child. But they didn't have to wait quite so long before – only 20 years! Rebekah fell pregnant with twins – God's promise of future generations was beginning to pick up speed!

This love story tells us God is involved in our relationships as well. Begin to pray already as this family did that God will send the right wife (or husband) for you when you get to that stage. This is too important a decision for you to make on your own.