

**ISAAC MARRIES REBEKAH**

Old Testament Lesson #16

Abraham was now very old, and Sarah had died a few years earlier. Isaac had not yet married. Abraham assigned his chief servant to go to the land of Abraham's relatives to seek a wife for Isaac. He instructed the servant that it was important that Isaac not take a wife from among the Canaanites, but that she should be from his own people. He made the servant promise this with an oath. Abraham told the servant that God would send an angel ahead of the servant so that he could be successful.

The servant left with 10 camels and many gifts. He traveled to Nahor's (NA-hor) town and stopped at the well where the women came to draw water. He prayed to God that if the girl from whom he requested water responded, "Drink, and I'll water your camels, too," then he would know this was the girl God had chosen to be Isaac's wife.

Before he even finished his prayer, Rebekah came to the well. She responded as the servant had prayed. So he gave her some gold jewelry and asked whose daughter she was. Learning she was Abraham's relative, he praised God.

Rebekah then ran and told her family. Her brother Laban (LA-ban) welcomed the servant and offered dinner. The servant asked that Rebekah be allowed to go with him and marry Isaac. Laban and Rebekah's mother both acknowledged that God's hand was involved in the event. They permitted Rebekah to go.

Isaac married Rebekah and loved her.

**POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- Isaac was 40 at the time of his marriage to Rebekah (Genesis 25:20). His mother, Sarah, was dead, but his father, Abraham, lived to see his grandsons, Jacob and Esau, born.
- The importance of not marrying the people from other nations was stressed not only in Abraham's day but throughout Israel's history. The principle became an integral part of the Law of Moses. The failure to abide by this principle caused much grief to Israel (see Deuteronomy 7:1-6 and Judges 2:10-3:6 for examples).
- "The town of Nahor" (Genesis 24:10) probably means "Nahor's town," that is, Haran (HA-ran), from which Abraham had left with Sarah and Lot, his nephew, some 65 years earlier (see Genesis 12:4-5; 29:4-5). The general area was called Paddan Aram (PA-dan-A-ram) (Genesis 25:20; 28:2-7).

**Isaac Marries Rebekah**

- I. Abraham, now widowed, believed Isaac needed a wife.
  - A. He sent a servant to find a wife in the land of Abraham's relatives.
  - B. He said God would first send an angel to help.
- II. The servant stopped at a well where women gathered.
  - A. He prayed that God would show him which girl would be the right one for Isaac.
  - B. Rebekah went to the well and responded to the servant's request.
  - C. The servant learned that she was Abraham's relative and would be a suitable wife.
- III. Rebekah told her family about the servant.
  - A. The family welcomed the servant.
  - B. They gave Rebekah permission to go to marry Isaac.
  - C. Isaac married Rebekah.

**ANSWER KEY:**

Seek a wife for Isaac.

To the well at Nahor's town.

"Drink, and I'll water your camels too."  
 Rebekah