

Genesis 24:1-27

¹ Now Abraham was old, advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.

² Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, ³ and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred and get a wife for my son Isaac." ⁵ The servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land; must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?" ⁶ Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷ The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there." ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all kinds of choice gifts from his master, and he set out and went to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water; it was toward evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³ I am standing here by the spring of water, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please offer your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, coming out with her water jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The young woman was very fair to look upon, a virgin, whom no man had known. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me sip a little water from your jar." ¹⁸ "Drink, my lord," she said and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful.

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold nose ring weighing a half shekel and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels ²³ and said, "Tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" ²⁴ She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor." ²⁵ She added, "We have plenty of straw and fodder and a place to spend the night." ²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord ²⁷ and said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the way to the house of my master's kin."

Reflection on Genesis 24:1

Genesis 24:1

“Now Abraham was old, advanced in years, and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.”

When I looked at this verse, I took the liberty to paraphrase it for my own life:

“Now I am old, advanced in years, and the Lord has blessed me in all things.”

Blessed — *in all things*. What does that really mean?

Abraham’s life was not perfect. He experienced famine, fear, mistakes, and family conflict. Yet Scripture tells us he was blessed in all things. That phrase invites me to pause and reflect on my own life — not just on the easy chapters, but on the whole story.

I keep a gratitude journal. A magnet on my refrigerator boldly declares “GRATITUDE,” greeting me each day as a reminder to thank God for the many ways He has blessed me. Friends often tell me how blessed my life has been, and I humbly take their words to heart.

I was brought up in the church, believing in an ever-loving Father. The Lord guided me in choices — and sometimes chose for me when I could not see clearly. He lent me the best parents. He led me to the best spouse. He blessed me with three loving children, wonderful sons- and daughter-in-law, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. I will always be thankful that He led me into the nursing profession — that history is a God story for another day.

Can I see God’s hand even in the challenges? Absolutely.

After marriage, job transfers took us through five long-distance moves. With three small children, we uprooted the life we had carefully built each time — especially our church homes. Was it easy? No. Did I see it as challenging? You bet. Yet even then, God was leading us.

Eventually, He brought us to Ohio, where we have remained for 45 years. It was there we truly built our lives. Our children grew up, met their spouses, and gave us our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The Lord led us to a church home where we celebrated three marriages, witnessed nine grandchildren baptized, stood proudly at confirmations, and said one final earthly goodbye at a funeral.

Through it all, we were shepherded by faithful pastors — Pastor Dave, Pastor Chuck, and Pastor Kathy — reminders that God provides leaders for each season. Gratitude enters again.

As I grow older, gratitude grows clearer. Time has sharpened my vision. I am thankful for the years the Lord gave me with my husband before He called him Home sooner than I would have chosen. Even in loss, I see blessing — the gift of having loved deeply.

Now, in what may be the final chapter of my life, I am grateful that the Lord continues to bless me with the physical, mental, and spiritual strength to remain active. I see more clearly than

ever that “blessed in all things” does not mean a life without sorrow. It means a life held securely in the hands of a faithful God.

And when I look back over the years, I can truly say: The Lord has blessed me in all things.

Closing Prayer

Gracious Father,

Thank You for the years You have given me and for Your faithfulness in every season. Thank You for the blessings I recognized and for those I only understand now in hindsight. Teach me to continue living with a grateful heart. Help me to trust You with the days that remain, just as You have so faithfully guided the days behind me. May my life reflect Your goodness, and may gratitude always rise above regret.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Marjorie Gray