

Genesis 24:1-21 The Journey for a Bride

Gen 24:1 Now Abraham was (**very**) old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham, in all things (**in every way**).

Gen 24:2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house (**most likely Eliezer of Damascus because of Gen 15**), who ruled over, all that he(**Abraham**) had (**owned**), "Please, put your hand under my thigh (**this was customary, for affirming a solemn oath**),

Gen 15:2 But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir (**literally son of acquisition**) of my house (**estate**) is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith, 3,000 series

This oldest servant was probably Eliezer. He is named for us in chapter 15, when God promised that He would be to Abraham his exceeding great reward and bring to him great riches. Abraham said, "What's the value of all the wealth when I don't have any descendants to leave it to? My heir is this Eliezer of Damascus, a servant born in my house. I don't have any of my own children to leave it all to." And God said, "The servant will not be the heir, but one that is born of thee will be the heir." And the promise again of God multiplying the seed of Abraham as the stars of heaven.

So Eliezer, the name in Hebrew means, "God my help," Eliezer. He is a type of the Holy Spirit as he goes to get a bride for his master's son, to woo and to win that bride, to bring her back, that the master's son might be married to this bride.

As a type of the Holy Spirit, his name is significant. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, which in Greek is paracletes and it means literally, "one who comes alongside to help". So the name is the helper, as Eliezer is "God my helper." The name of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament, the paracletes, is the one who comes alongside to help.

Now Eliezer is not named in chapter 24, and I believe that is not a slight or an omission carelessly. I believe that it is a deliberate omission by the Holy Spirit to inspired the text. For Jesus said concerning the Holy Spirit, "When He comes, He is not going to testify of Himself, He is going to testify of Me." He is not come to bring glory to Himself, but He's come to bring glory to Christ. And the witness and work of the Holy Spirit in the world today is not to magnify Himself, but is to magnify Jesus Christ. I wonder how the Holy Spirit feels when people seek to magnify Him when His duty is to magnify Jesus. So important is His magnifying of the Son that even as He inspires the text, He leaves out the name in chapter 24 and just is called "the oldest servant of Abraham".

Gen 24:3 "and I will make you swear (**solemnly promise**) by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son, from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell (**live**);

Gen 24:4 "but you shall (**instead**) go to my (**former**) country (**Mesopotamia**) and to my family (**relatives**), and take a wife for my son Isaac (**the heir of the Gods covenant promise**)."

The journey was about 550- 900 miles (900 km plus) and would have taken about 21-30 days. He had left Haran in northern Mesopotamia more than ninety years ago

Gen 24:5 And the servant said to him(**Abraham**), "Perhaps the woman will not be willing (**or I can't find a women**) to follow me to this land (**or far country**). Must I take your son back to the land from which you came (**where your relatives live, your hometown**)?"

Gen 24:6 But Abraham said to him(**Eliezer of Damascus**), "Beware that you do not (**ever**) take my son back there.

Gen 24:7 "The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants (**Hebrew seed**) I give this land,' He will send His angel before you (**to guide you**), and you shall take (**find**) a wife for my son from there (**and bring her here**).

Gen 24:8 "And if the woman is not willing to follow you (**to this land**), then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there (**ever**)."

Gen 24:9 So the servant(**Eliezer of Damascus**) put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him(**Abraham**) concerning this matter (**to follow Abraham's instructions**).

Gen 24:10 Then the servant(**Eliezer of Damascus**) took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's (**selected**) goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia (**known literally as Aram of the two rivers: Euphrates and Tigris Rivers**), to the city of Nahor (**the home of Abraham's brother and relatives**).

Gen 24:11 And he(**Eliezer of Damascus**) made his camels kneel down outside the city, by a well of water, at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.

Gen 24:12 Then he(**Eliezer of Damascus**) said (**prayed**), "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness (**faithfulness**) to my master Abraham.

Abraham's servant (**like Abraham**) has faith in God and prays for wisdom and guidance.

Gen 24:13 "Behold, here I stand by the well of water (**spring**), and the daughters (**young women**) of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.

Gen 24:14 "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give, your camels a drink'-- let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac (**to be his wife**). And by this I will know that You have shown kindness (**faithfulness**) to my master."

Gen 24:15 And it happened, before he (**Eliezer**) had finished speaking (**praying to God**), that behold, Rebekah, who was born to (**daughter of**) Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher (**water jug**) on her shoulder.

Gen 24:16 Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin (**and unmarried**); no man had known her (**sexually**). And she(**Rebekah**) went down to the well (**spring**), filled her pitcher, and came up.

Quote from David Guzik

Rebekah is one of the women whom the Bible specifically says was beautiful. The others are Sarah (Genesis 12:11-14), Rachel (Genesis 29:17), Abigail (1 Samuel 25:3), Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:2), Tamar (2 Samuel 14:27), Queen Vashti of the Persians (Esther 1:11), Esther (Esther 2:7), and the daughters of Job (Job 42:15).

Gen 24:17 And the servant (**Eliezer**) ran to meet her(**Rebekah**) and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

Gen 24:18 So she(**Rebekah**) said, "Drink, my lord." Then she(**Rebekah**) quickly let her pitcher down (**lowered it from her shoulder**) to her hand, and gave him(**Eliezer**) a drink.

Gen 24:19 And when she(**Rebekah**) had finished giving him(**Eliezer**) a drink, she(**Rebekah**) said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

Gen 24:20 Then she(**Rebekah**) quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough (**water channel for animals**), ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

Gen 24:21 And the man(**Eliezer**), wondering (**gazing**) at her (**watched**), remained silent so as to know (**for sure**) whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous (**successful**) or not.

Genesis 24:22-49 Whose Daughter are you

Gen 24:22 So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man(**Eliezer**) took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold (**a shekel was approx. 0.4 oz. or 11 gm**),

Gen 24:23 and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge (**spend the night**)?"

Gen 24:24 So she(**Rebekah**) said to him(**Eliezer**), "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor (**her husband**). (**Her grandparents are Nahor and Milcah**)."

Gen 24:25 Moreover she(**Rebekah**) said to him(**Eliezer**), "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

Gen 24:26 Then the man(**Eliezer**) bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD.

God's quick answer to the prayer prompts worship and humility

Gen 24:27 And he(**Eliezer**) said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy (**lovingkindness**) and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren (**relatives**)."

Gen 24:28 So the young woman(**Rebekah**) ran and told her mother's household these things (**what had happened**).

Gen 24:29 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man(**Eliezer**) by the well.

Gen 24:30 So it came to pass, when he(**Laban**) saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he(**Eliezer**) stood by the camels at the well.

Gen 24:31 And he(**Laban**) said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

Gen 24:32 Then the man(**Eliezer, Abraham's servant**) came to the house. And he(**Laban**) unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his(**Eliezer**) feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

Gen 24:33 Food was set before him(**Eliezer, Abraham's servant**) to eat, but he(**Eliezer**) said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand (**stated my business**)." And he(**Laban**) said, "Speak on."

Gen 24:34 So he(**Eliezer**) said, "I am Abraham's servant.

Gen 24:35 "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great (**wealthy, powerful**); and He (**the Lord**) has given him(**Abraham**) flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.

Gen 24:36 "And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him (**Isaac**), he(**Abraham**) has given all that he has (**owns**).

Gen 24:37 "Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son(**Isaac**) from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell (**live now**);

Gen 24:38 'but you shall go (**instead**) to my father's house and to my family (**relatives**), and take a wife for my son(**Isaac**).'

Gen 24:39 "And I said to my master(**Abraham**), 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me (**back to his home or does not want to go**).'

Gen 24:40 "But he(**Abraham**), said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk (**whose presence I have lived**), will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son(**Isaac**) from my family and from my father's house.

Gen 24:41 'You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family (relatives); for if they will not give her to you, then you will be released (free) from my oath.'

Gen 24:42 "And this day I came to the well (**spring**) and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go (**make my mission successful**),

Gen 24:43 'behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin (**young woman**) comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink,"

Gen 24:44 'and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,"--let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son (**be his wife**).'

Gen 24:45 "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher (**water jar**) on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

Gen 24:46 "And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also.

Gen 24:47 "Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.

These gifts are a customary act of admiration and respect, validating a wealthy person

Gen 24:48 "And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son (as a wife).

Gen 24:49 "Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left (be on my way)."

Genesis 24:50-66 Isaac took Rebekah as his wife

Gen 24:50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD (The LORD has obviously brought you here); we cannot speak to you either bad or good (we dare not say anything, we do not want to interfere).

Rebekah's brother and father acknowledge Gods hand

Gen 24:51 "Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken (decided and directed)."

Gen 24:52 And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

Gen 24:53 Then the servant(Eliezer, Abraham's servant) brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

The gifts confirm Abraham's wealth

Gen 24:54 And he(Eliezer, Abraham's servant) and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

Gen 24:55 But her(Rebekah's) brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman(Rebekah) stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go."

Gen 24:56 And he(Eliezer, Abraham's servant) said to them, "Do not hinder (or delay) me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go (return) to my master."

Gen 24:57 So they said, "We will call the young woman(Rebekah) and ask her personally."

Gen 24:58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

Gen 24:59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse (**Deborah**), and Abraham's servant (**Eliezer**) and his men.

Gen 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess (**strength and conquer**) The (**city**) gates of those who hate them (**their enemies**)."

Gen 24:61 Then Rebekah and her maids arose (**stood, waiting for direction**), and they rode on the camels and followed the man(**Abraham's servant, Eliezer**). So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

Gen 24:62 Now Isaac came (**returned**) from the way of Beer Lahai Roi (**means: Well of the Living One Who Sees Me**), for he dwelt in the South (**Negev, country, south and west of the Dead Sea**).

Gen 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the (**early**) evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

Gen 24:64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel;

Gen 24:65 for she had said to the servant(**Abraham's servant, Eliezer**), "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master (**son Isaac**)." So she took a veil (**or shawl**) and covered herself (**as was customary**)

Gen 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

Gen 24:67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah (**in marriage**) and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

End, Prayer

Extra Scriptures: