

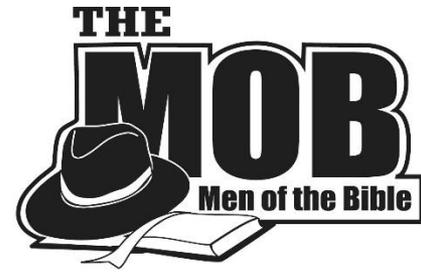
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

WELCOME TO THE MOB!



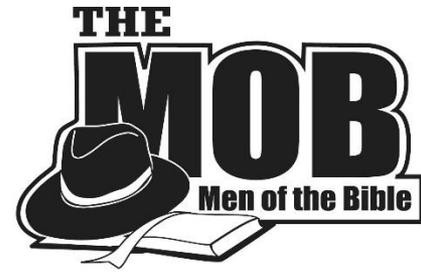
Announcements



- Welcome to the MOB!
- Website: www.ibcmob.net
- IBI Class: Answers In Genesis, Sundays, 13 weeks began February 3, 2019, 11:00 AM – 12:00 noon, IBC Room B207, **FREE**, you can still join, but please [Register Online](#)
- Please rise for a hymn of praise & invocation



Memory Verse



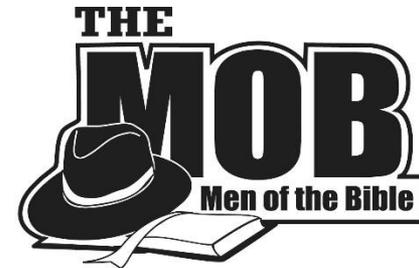
Proverbs 31:30-31 (ESV)

Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but
a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Proverbs 31:30-31 (ESV)



Genesis Overview

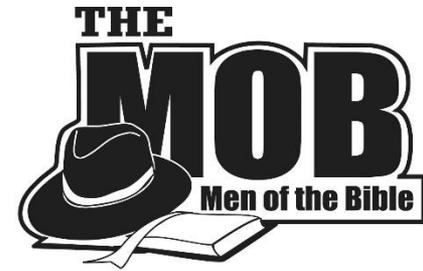


Focus	Four Events				Four People			
Reference	1:1 – 2:25	3:1 – 5:32	6:1 – 9:29	10:1 – 11:9	11:10 – 25:18	25:19 – 26:35	27:1 – 36:43	37:1 – 50:26
Division	Creation	Fall	Flood	Nations	Abraham	Isaac	Jacob	Joseph
Topic	The Human Race				The Chosen Race (Hebrews)			
	Primeval History / Historical				Patriarchal History / Biographical			
Location	Fertile Crescent (Eden – Haran)				Canaan (Haran – Canaan)			
Time	cir. 2,000 years (cir. 4004 – 2090 B.C.)				193 years (2090 – 1897 B.C.)			





Genesis Divisions



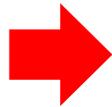
בְּרֵאשִׁית (*bereshith*) = **Beginnings** (of many things)

Greek = Genesis = Origin, Source, Generation, Beginning

תּוֹלְדוֹת (*toledoth*) = “These are the generations of...” or “This is the history of...” or “account of...” **10 sections:**

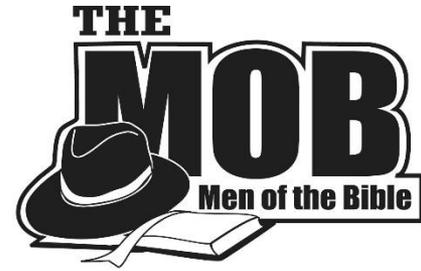
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1. The generations of **heaven and earth** ([Genesis 2:4 – 4:26](#))
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6. The generations of **Terah** ([Genesis 11:27 – 25:11](#))
7. The generations of **Ishmael** ([Genesis 25:12 – 18](#))
8. The generations of **Isaac** ([Genesis 25:19 – 35:29](#))
9. The generations of **Esau** ([Genesis 36:1 – 37:1](#))
10. The generations of **Jacob** ([Genesis 37:2 – 50:26](#))





Our Study of Genesis



Last Meeting:

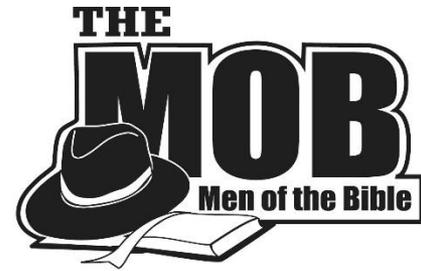
- [Genesis 22:1-24](#) Abraham's Faith: Tested & Confirmed (God Provides)
- *Encountering Genesis*, Chapter 8, pages 106 – 110

This Meeting:

- [Genesis 23:1 – 24:67](#) Sarah Dies & Isaac Marries Rebekah (God Provides *Again*)
- *Encountering Genesis*, Chapter 8, pages 110 – 113



Overview



Genesis 23

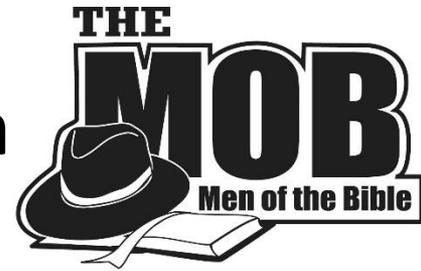
- Sarah dies at age 127 in Hebron and Abraham mourns and weeps
- Abraham buys a burial place for Sarah (and future family members)
- Abraham buries Sarah in Hebron in the land of Canaan
- **Significance:** God continues to fulfill his promises to Abraham
 - Sarah's life mission was complete: Mother of Isaac, the Son of Promise
 - Abraham recognized publically as "a prince of God" by regional leaders
 - Abraham now legally owns real estate (burial ground) in the land of Canaan
 - Abraham's family has a new homeland: Canaan, the Promised Land

Genesis 24 (the longest chapter in Genesis, Genesis 16 is the shortest chapter)

- Isaac needs a wife (to have a son), but NOT a local pagan woman
- Abraham sends his most trusted servant on this important mission
- Abraham & his servant prepare & execute, but trust God for success
- God provides Rebekah, Abraham's grandniece, who becomes Isaac's wife
- **Significance:** God continues to fulfill his promises to Abraham
 - Isaac can now have children to grow the family and inherit the Promised Land
 - These events (Isaac, servant, Rebekah) foreshadow Jesus, Holy Spirit, Church



Observation & Interpretation



¹ Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. ² And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. ³ And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, ⁴ “I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.” ⁵ The Hittites answered Abraham, ⁶ “Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.”

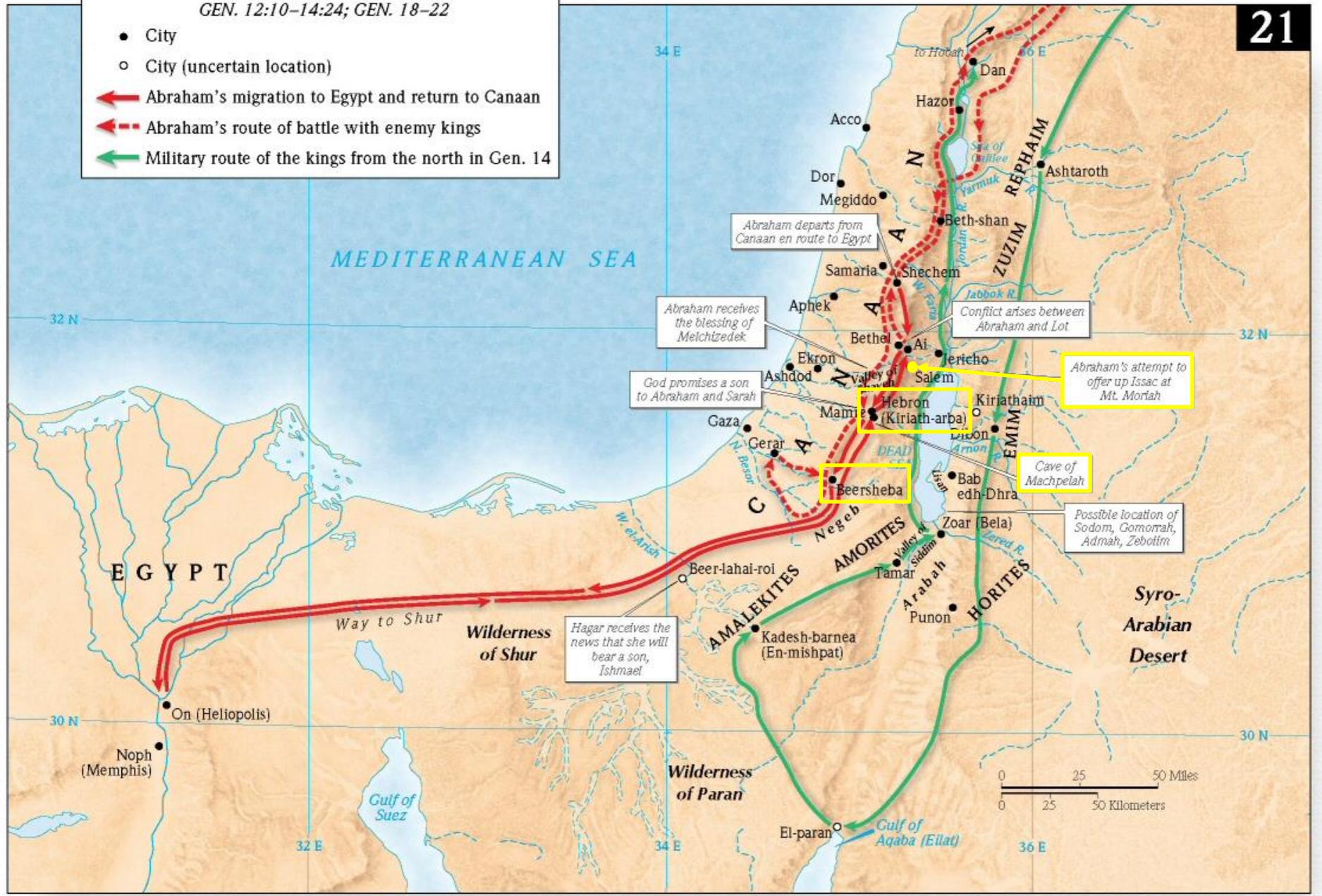
Observations & Interpretation:

- Sarah fulfilled her God-given purpose: wife to Abraham & mother to Isaac
- Age at death: 127 years old (Abraham was 137, Isaac was 37)
- Location: Kirjath-arba (city of Arba, an Anakite chief); Hebron in Canaan ([Numbers 13:22](#), [Joshua 14:15](#), [Judges 1:10](#))

ABRAHAM IN CANAAN

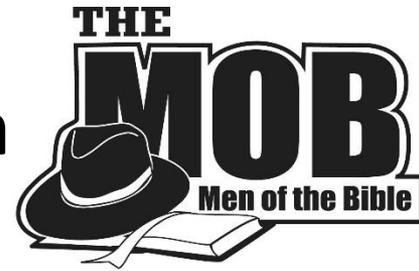
GEN. 12:10-14:24; GEN. 18-22

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Abraham's migration to Egypt and return to Canaan
- Abraham's route of battle with enemy kings
- Military route of the kings from the north in Gen. 14





Observation & Interpretation



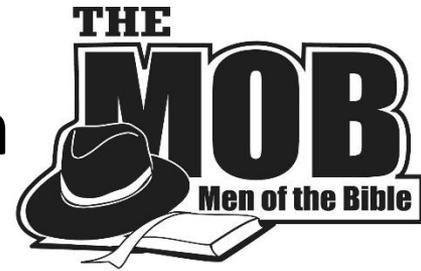
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Observations & Interpretation:

- Sarah fulfilled her God-given purpose: wife to Abraham & mother to Isaac
- Age at death: 127 years old (Abraham was 137, Isaac was 37)
- Location: Kirjath-arba (city of Arba, an Anakite chief); Hebron in Canaan ([Numbers 13:22](#), [Joshua 14:15](#), [Judges 1:10](#))
- Respect: Sarah is the only woman in Scripture whose age, death, and burial are mentioned
- Abraham loved his wife: he went from his tent to her tent to mourn and weep (deep grief)
- Abraham was humble; local rulers respected him, calling him “a prince of God”
- “sons of Heth” – Heth was Canaan’s second son ([Genesis 10:15](#)); ancestor of the [Hittites](#)
- “bury your dead in... our tombs” – They did NOT want to give him property, even for graves
- Owning land would give Abraham, not a Hittite, a permanent “foothold” in their region



Observation & Interpretation



⁷ Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. ⁸ And he said to them, “If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, ⁹ that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”

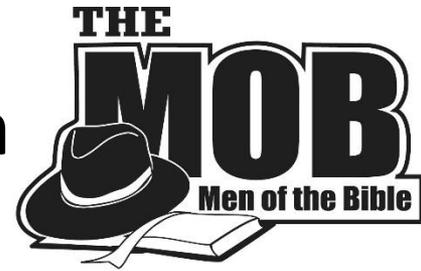
¹⁰ Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, ¹¹ “No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.”

Observations & Interpretation:

- Abraham wanted a local land-owner, Ephron, to sell the cave on his land to Abraham
- “Machpelah” = a place near Hebron; from Hebrew כַּפַּל (kaphal) to double, double over
- Abraham only asked for the cave at the end of Ephron’s field, not the full property
- The city gate is where all official business and court was conducted ([Genesis 19:1](#))
- Ephron offered to give the property to Abraham as a gift, putting Abraham in his debt
- If Abraham got the cave, but not the field, then Ephron would still be responsible for paying taxes on the field and for other related feudal duties (e.g., military service) as a landowner under the regional ruler; if Abraham wanted the cave, he would have to take the field too, keeping him obligated to the local authorities



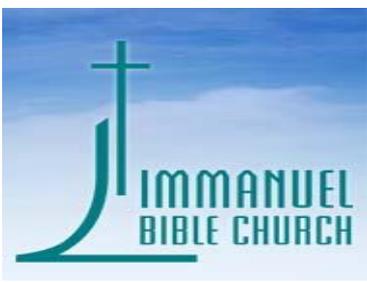
Observation & Interpretation



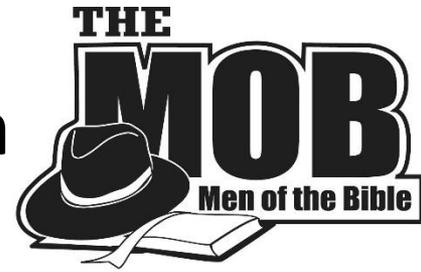
¹² Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. ¹³ And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.” ¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵ “My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.”

Observations & Interpretation:

- Abraham did not want to be indebted to Ephron for this gift (a liability) so he offered to pay the full price for the field, which included the cave
- Ephron knew Abraham needed the cave *now* to bury his wife and took advantage of the situation by setting a high price for the land
 - A shekel was a standard unit weight of weight
 - [1 ancient silver shekel was enough to feed a small family for about one week](#)
 - 400 shekels would have been enough to feed a small family for 7.7 years
- Ephron’s manner of speaking was polite, but meant to flatter and impress as he “squeezed” Abraham for money



Observation & Interpretation



¹⁶ Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.

¹⁷ So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over ¹⁸ to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. ¹⁹ After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. ²⁰ The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.

Observations & Interpretation:

- Because [this transaction took place before standard coins were minted](#), Abraham would have used standard merchant scales and weights to weigh out, in public, 400 shekels worth of silver bars or lumps, without “haggling”
- Abraham buys the land and buries Sarah in the cave, the new family sepulcher
- Abraham now owns land, beginning to take possession of the Promised Land
- Because Abraham buried his wife here instead of taking her back to Mesopotamia, this is a clear indication he and his family will never go back!

“Cave of the Patriarchs” in Hebron



Inside the **Al-Ibrahimi Mosque** (since 570 AD), previously surrounded by walls built by Herod the Great (74 – 4 BC) and with a Byzantine basilica-type church build inside (400 – 500 AD)

Burial place of:

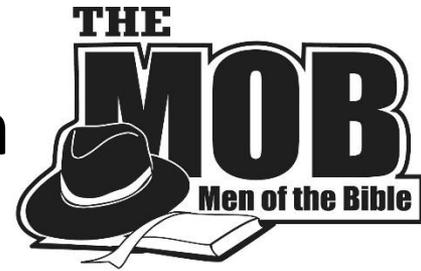
- Abraham & Sarah
- Isaac & Rebekah
- Jacob & Leah

(Rachel is buried in Bethlehem)





Observation & Interpretation



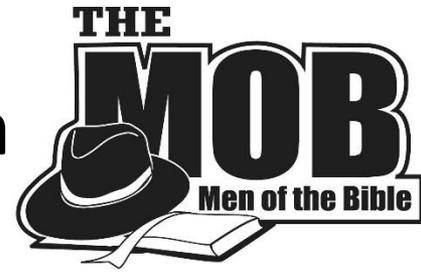
¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take 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 kindred, 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.

Observations & Interpretation:

- Abraham, too old to travel, sends his most trusted servant to find a suitable wife for Isaac
- Solemn oath; “under my thigh” = the place of the sign of the covenant ([Genesis 17:1-14](#))
- Isaac will NOT to leave the Promised Land and will NOT to marry a local pagan woman
- God will ensure the success of the mission (i.e., provide a suitable wife; [Genesis 2:18-24](#))
- If the woman will not follow, then abort mission (do not take matters into your own hand)



Observation & Interpretation



¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor.

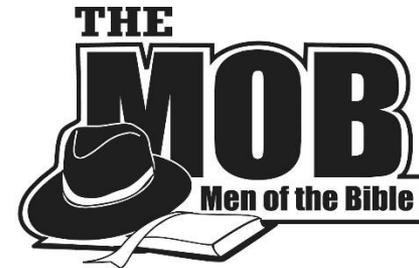
¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down 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."

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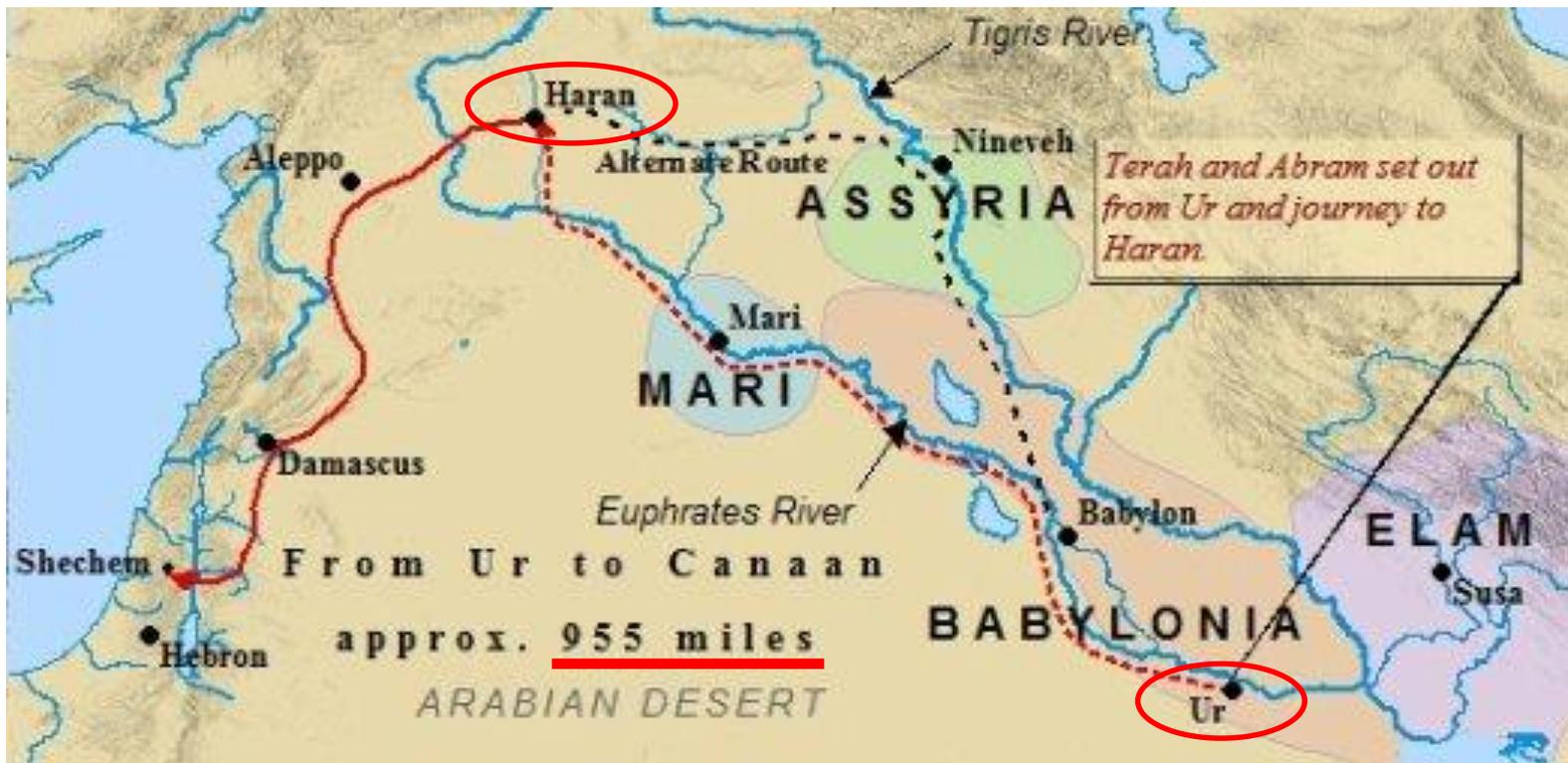
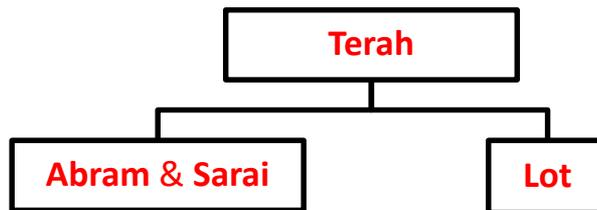
- Abraham had > 10 camels & "the goods," an indication of God's blessing (great wealth)
- Mesopotamia = Abraham's original homeland; Nahor = Abraham's brother



Genesis 11:27 – 12:20



Genesis 11:31-32 Ur to Haran

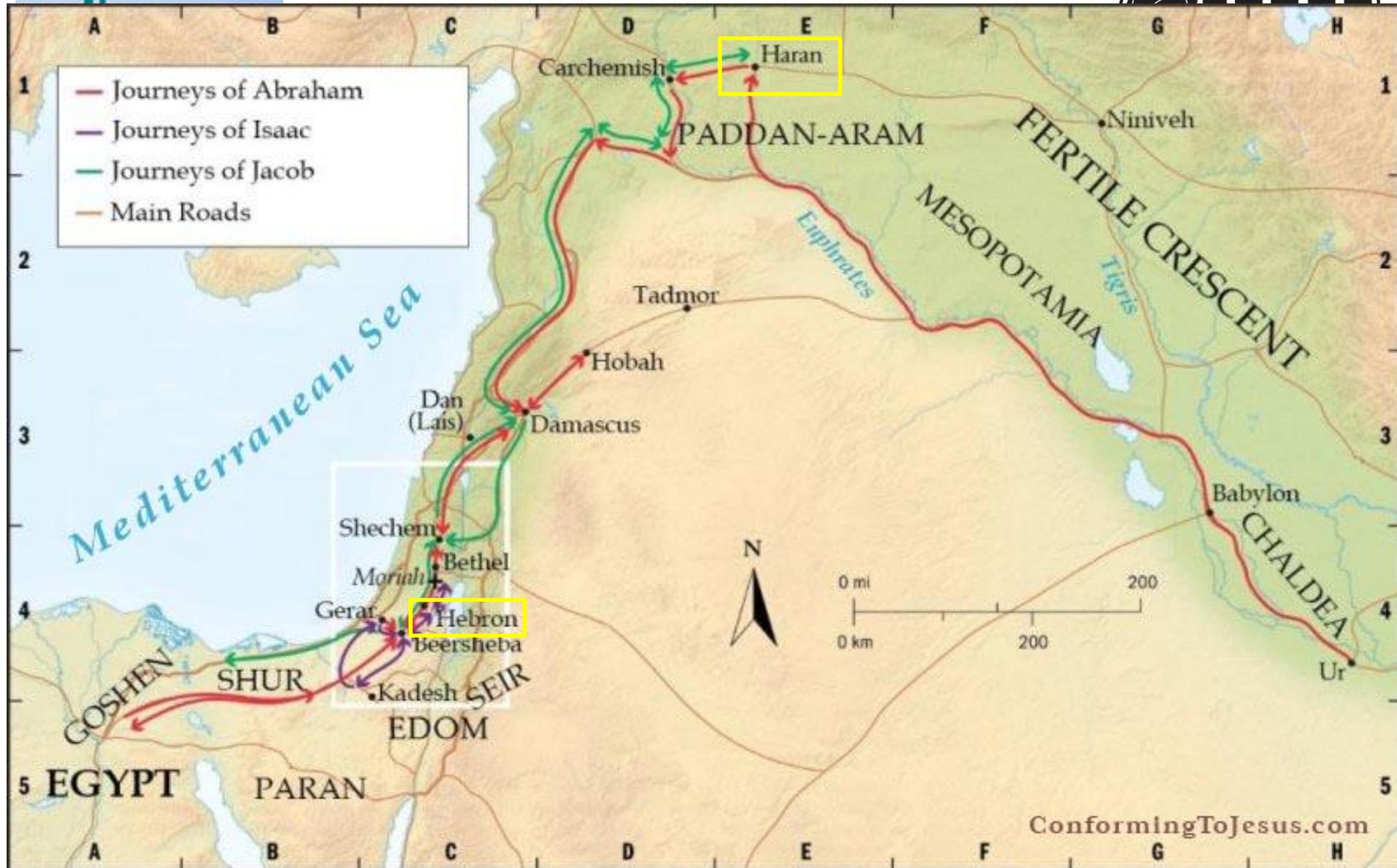


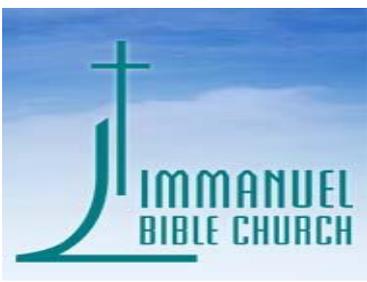
From Ur to Canaan

approx. 955 miles

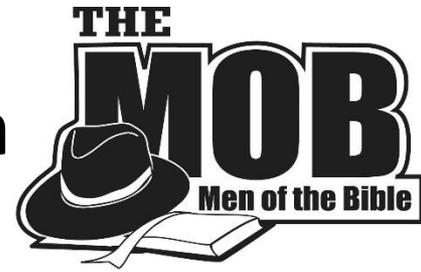
ARABIAN DESERT

Journeys of the Patriarchs





Observation & Interpretation



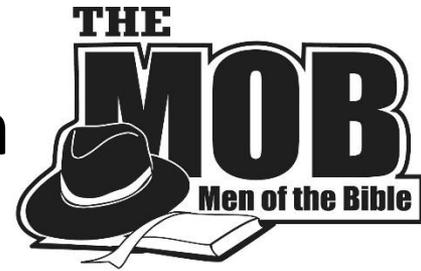
¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out 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 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down 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."

Observations & Interpretation:

- Abraham had > 10 camels & "the goods," an indication of God's blessing (great wealth)
- Mesopotamia = Abraham's original homeland; Nahor = Abraham's brother
- Abraham's servant has faith that God will honor His promise to bless Abraham
- Abraham's servant prays a very specific prayer to God asking for a very specific sign
- Since the servant is working for Abraham, the servant has faith that God will answer



Observation & Interpretation



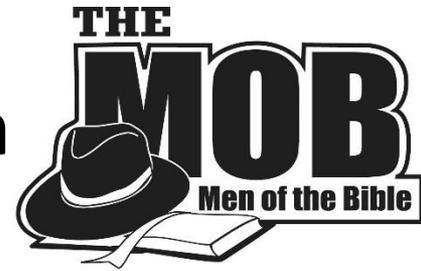
¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water to drink from your jar." ¹⁸ She said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water 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 water, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.

Observations & Interpretation:

- God responds to the servant's prayer immediately!
- Rebekah, a very beautiful virgin and Abraham's grandniece, met all selection criteria:
 - 'Please let down your jar that I may drink' – Rebekah was carrying a jar of water and she let it down
 - "who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels' – Rebekah did – a major task for **10 camels!**
- Note:** One camel can drink 20 – 25 gallons in 10 minutes and up to 40 gallons in one drinking session. One gallon weighs 8.34 pounds. **Rebekah may have carried 200 – 400 gallons (1,668 – 3,336 pounds)!**
- Not only is Rebekah a polite, beautiful, virgin, family member; she is also a hard worker!
- Abraham's servant watched carefully to be sure this woman was God's provision for Isaac



Observation & Interpretation



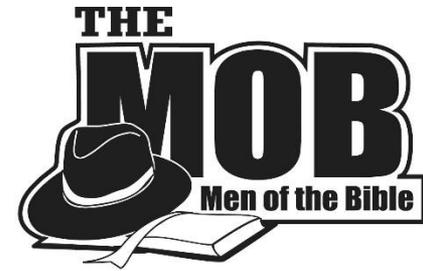
²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³ and said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?” ²⁴ She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” ²⁵ She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room 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 in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen.” ²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.

Observations & Interpretation:

- ½ shekel gold nose ring + two 10 shekel gold arm bracelets = signs of significant wealth
- Rebekah is Abraham’s grandniece!



Genesis Divisions



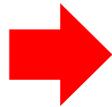
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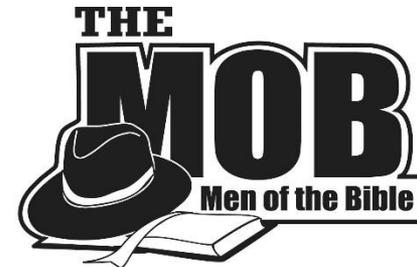
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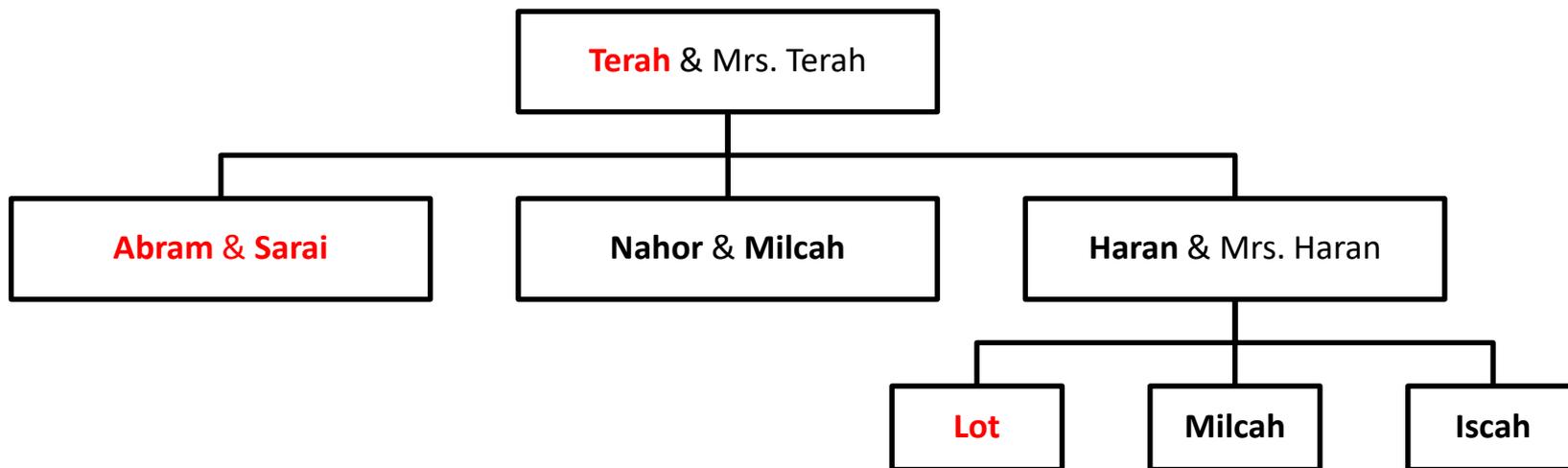




Genesis 11:27 – 12:20

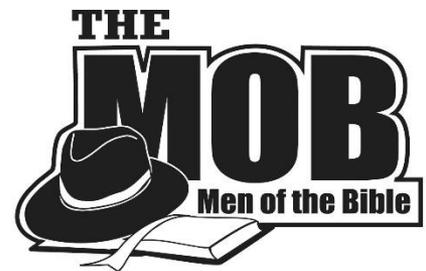


³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

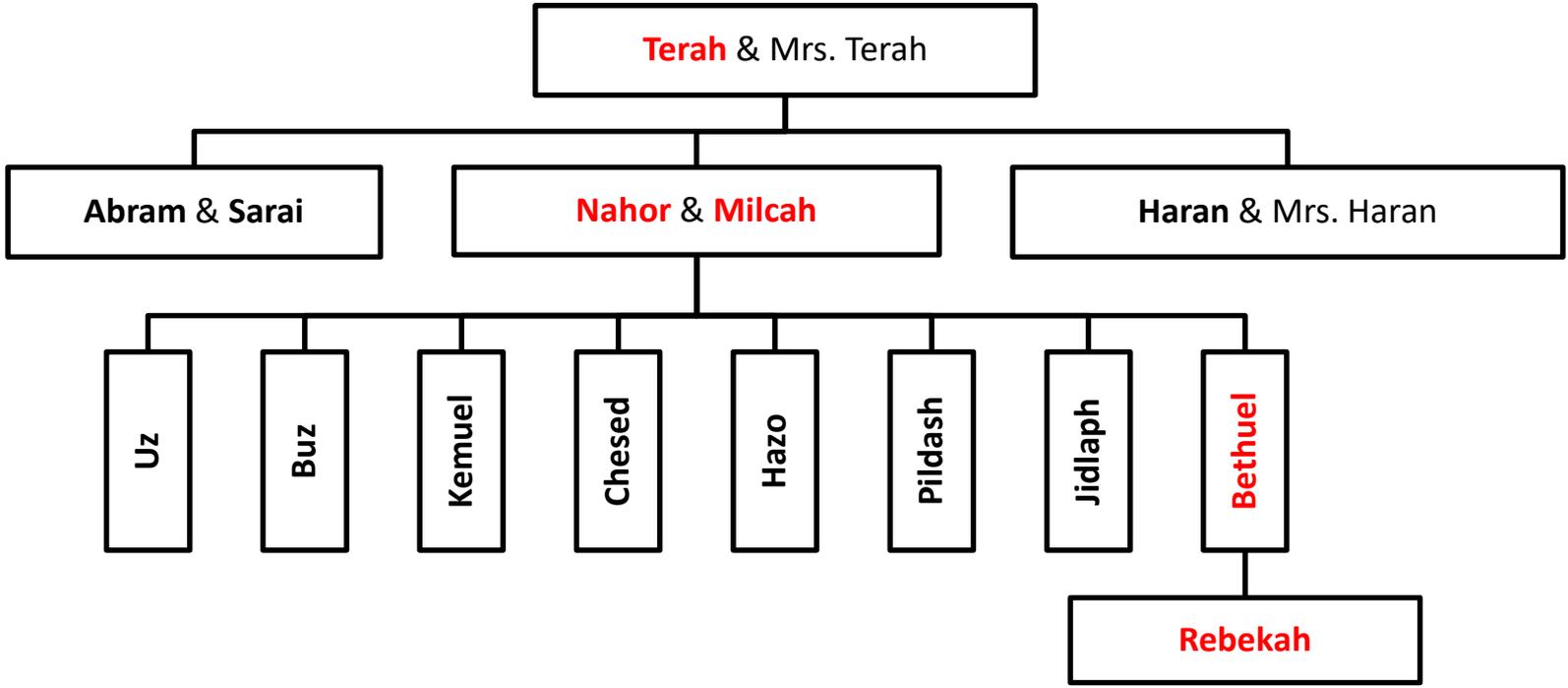




Genesis 23:20-24

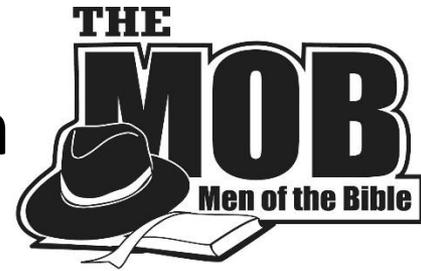


²⁰ Now after these things it was told to Abraham, “Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: ²¹ Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, ²² Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.” ²³ (Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. ²⁴ Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.





Observation & Interpretation



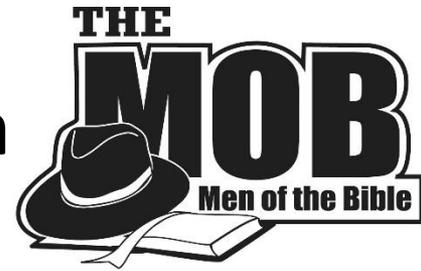
²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³ and said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?”
²⁴ She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” ²⁵ She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room 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 in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen.” ²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.

Observations & Interpretation:

- ½ shekel gold nose ring + two 10 shekel gold arm bracelets = signs of significant wealth
- Rebekah is Abraham’s grandniece!
- Abraham’s servant worshipped YAHWEH for His faithfulness



Observation & Interpretation



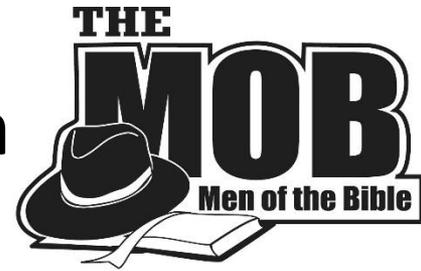
²⁹ Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. ³⁰ As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. ³¹ He 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." ³² So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ³³ Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on."

Observations & Interpretation:

- Rebekah's brother Laban will later become the uncle who took in Jacob ([Genesis 27:42-45](#))
- Laban sees the gold and is eager to meet the visitors and welcome them in
- Laban shows the generous hospitality to Abraham's servant and his men
- Abraham's servant is so "mission-focused," he will not eat until he explains his mission – very unusual in the middle east where relationship building always precedes business



Observation & Interpretation



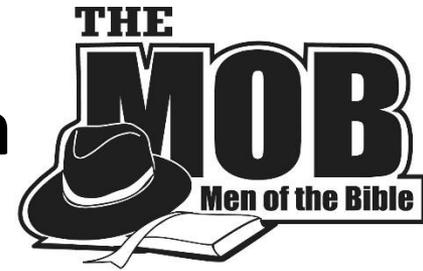
³⁴ So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.' ³⁹ I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' ⁴⁰ But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house.' ⁴¹ Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

Observations & Interpretation:

- Abraham's servant presents credentials and provides news of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac
- Abraham's servant explains his mission clearly: find a suitable wife for Isaac from family
- "Family" would be descendants of Seth, Noah, Shem, Eber ("Hebrews"), and Terah
- Abraham's servant shares Abraham's and his faith in Yahweh
- Abraham's servant also shares the "escape clause" – he will not force the issue



Observation & Interpretation



⁴² "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, ⁴³ behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴ and who will say 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.'

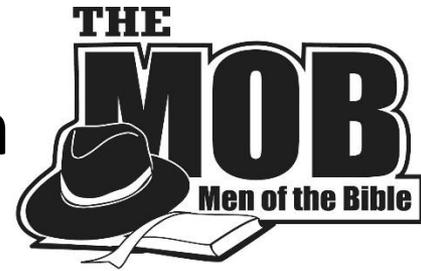
⁴⁵ "Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹ Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

Observations & Interpretation:

- Abraham's servant shares the miracle of his prayer and God's answer in Rebekah
- This retelling of the story told previously adds emphasis
- Laban, perhaps the oldest son, represented Bethuel, who may have been old or infirm
- Abraham's servant asks Laban, who speaks on behalf of Rebekah, for a direct answer



Observation & Interpretation



⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good. ⁵¹ Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken.”

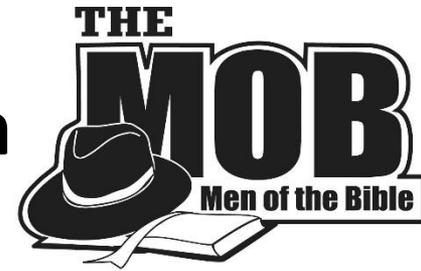
⁵² When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD. ⁵³ And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. ⁵⁴ And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.” ⁵⁵ Her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go.” ⁵⁶ But he said to them, “Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master.”

Observations & Interpretation:

- Bethuel, Laban’s and Rebekah’s father, was present and answered with Laban
- Bethuel’s and Laban’s answer probably indicates they worshipped the one true God
- Again, Abraham’s servant worships God for this positive response
- Abraham’s servant gives costly gifts to Bethuel’s family and they men celebrate
- The very next morning, Abraham’s servant is ready to return to Abraham with Rebekah
- Laban and Rebekah’s mother ask for at least a ten-day delay in departure (get more gifts?)
- Abraham’s servant petitions for an immediate departure so he can complete his mission



Observation & Interpretation



⁵⁷ They said, “Let us call the young woman and ask her.” ⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will go.” ⁵⁹ So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

“Our sister, may you become
thousands of ten thousands,
and may your offspring possess
the gate of those who hate him!”

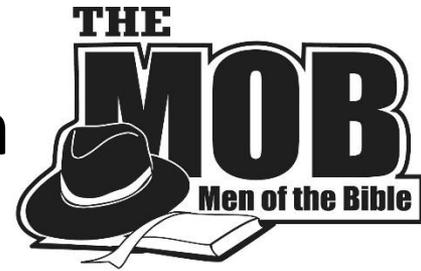
⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

Observations & Interpretation:

- In an age of arranged marriages, the bride-to-be usually had no say in who she would marry and when, but Laban and the mother asked Rebekah if she would go – unusual
- Rebekah, demonstrating great faith in the one true living God, says, “YES!”
- After being blessed by her family, Rebekah and her attendants depart with Abraham’s servant on camels – better than walking, but still a rough ride for about 535 miles



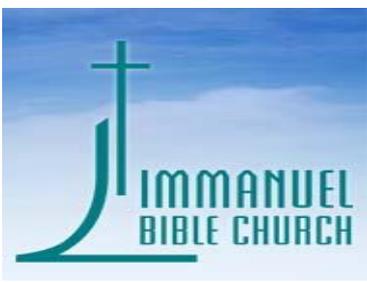
Observation & Interpretation



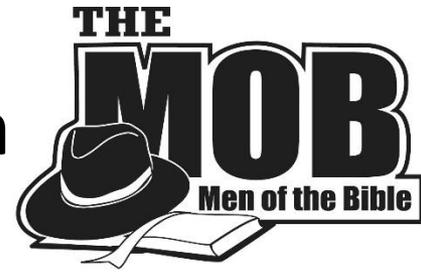
⁶² Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. ⁶³ And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, “Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Observations & Interpretation:

- Beer-lahai-roi (*the well of the Living One who sees me*) is where The Angel of the Lord met Hagar, pregnant with Ishmael, in the wilderness on the way to Shur (toward Egypt) ([Genesis 16](#))



Observation & Interpretation



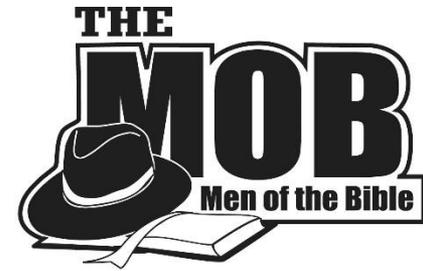
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Observations & Interpretation:

- Beer-lahai-roi (*the well of the Living One who sees me*) is where The Angel of the Lord met Hagar, pregnant with Ishmael, in the wilderness on the way to Shur (toward Egypt) ([Genesis 16](#))
- Isaac and Rebekah “lifted up” their eyes – looking in anticipation – and saw each other
- Rebekah dismounts – appropriate action for a subordinate in the presence of a superior
- Rebekah veils herself – appropriate action for a woman before her future husband
- Abraham’s servant provides Isaac, his new master, with a full report on his mission
- Isaac takes Rebekah to Sarah’s tent – symbolic of Rebekah becoming the new matriarch
- Isaac marries Rebekah and loves her – didn’t always happen in arranged marriages
- God’s provision of a suitable wife for Isaac comforted him – **God provides again!**



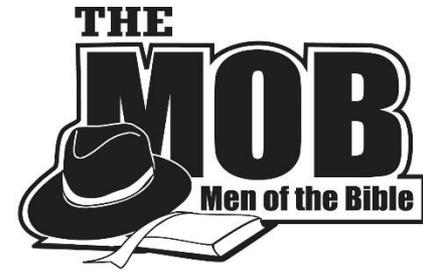
Discussion & Application



1. Why was it important for Abraham to bury Sarah in Hebron instead of in a traditional family or tribal burial place back in Haran or Ur?
2. In what ways have you tried in the past and now try to ensure you do not return to a life apart from God and His will for your life?
3. Why was it important for Abraham to find a wife for Isaac from among his family back in Haran instead of from among local rulers in the land of Canaan? (consider [Genesis 28:1-5](#), [Deuteronomy 7](#), [1 Kings 11](#), [Ezra 10](#), and [Nehemiah 1](#))
4. What are the potential dangers of a Christian marrying someone who is not already in the family of God (i.e., a [born-again](#) follower of Jesus Christ)? (consider [2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#) and the passages in 3. above)
5. Have you ever prayed for God's guidance and provision and then experienced a decisive response from God? How did you respond afterward? Like Abraham's servant?
6. Discuss how the account of Isaac, Abraham's servant, and Rebekah may serve as a foreshadowing of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Church.



Next Meeting



Review:

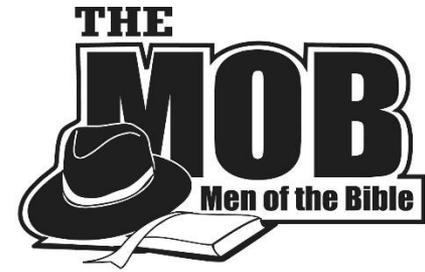
- [Genesis 23:1 – 24:67](#) Sarah Dies & Isaac Marries Rebekah
- *Encountering Genesis*, Chapter 8, pages 110 – 113

Read:

- [Genesis 25:1 – 28](#) Abraham Dies, The Generations of Ishmael & Isaac, and Birth of Esau & Jacob
- *Encountering Genesis*, Chapters 8 – 9, pages 113 – 119



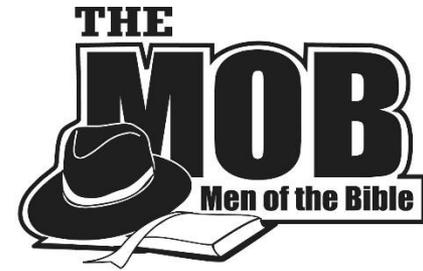
Closing



- Questions
- Benediction



Study References



Primary Reference: **The Holy Bible** (always)

Secondary Reference / Commentary: **The Holy Bible** (always)

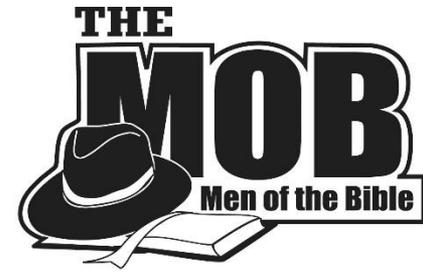
"The Bible is always the best commentary on the Bible."

Additional References (as time permits):

- [*Encountering the Book of Genesis*, Bill T. Arnold, Baker Books, 1998](#)
- [Dr. Constable's *Notes on Genesis*](#) (Full Commentary - FREE pdf download)
- [Hebrew Interlinear](#) (look up the meaning of the original Hebrew words)
- [*Shepherd's Notes, Genesis*, Paul Wright, B&H Publishing Group, 1997](#)
- [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible - Unabridged, Genesis*, Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, 1878](#)
- [*Wiersbe Bible Commentary: Old Testament*, Warren W. Wiersbe, 2007](#)
- Others references available at www.ibcmob.net/resources and online



Bible Study



Inductive Bible Study Approach:

- **Observation** – What does it say?
- **Interpretation** – What does it mean?
- **Application** – How do I apply this in my life?

Primary Reference: **The Holy Bible**

Secondary Reference / Commentary: **The Holy Bible**

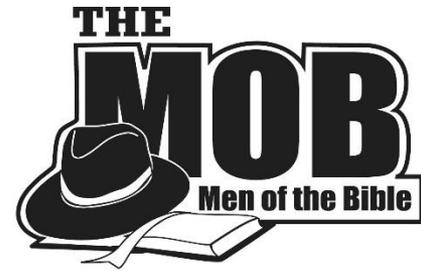
Additional References:

- [Encountering the Book of Genesis, Bill T. Arnold, Baker Books, 1998](#)
- [Dr. Constable's Notes on Genesis](#) (Full Commentary - FREE pdf download)
- [Grace to You - John MacArthur's sermons on Genesis \(audio files & transcripts\)](#)



Interpreting Scripture

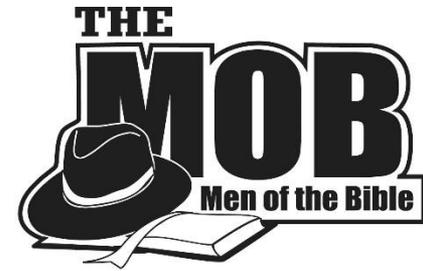
[\(Ref. IBC What We Teach\)](#)



1. **Normal** - understanding the words of Scripture in their common usage unless otherwise indicated by the context.
2. **Literal** - understanding the meaning of Scripture in its ordinary sense unless the context requires a figurative interpretation.
3. **Grammatical** - using the recognized rules of grammar to interpret the text.
4. **Historical** - understanding the words of Scripture in the context of the times in which they were written.
5. **Systematic** - categorizing and comparing the teaching of the Scriptures with the whole of Scripture in view.



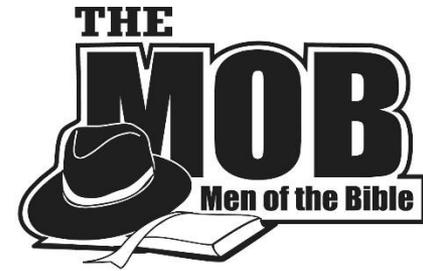
Genesis 23



¹ Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. ² And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. ³ And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, ⁴ "I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." ⁵ The Hittites answered Abraham, ⁶ "Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead." ⁷ Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. ⁸ And he said to them, "If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, ⁹ that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place."



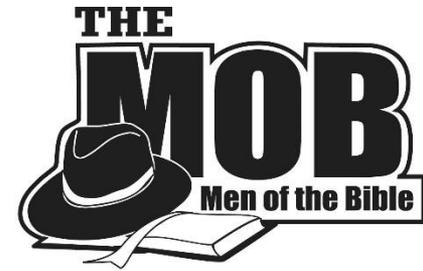
Genesis 23



¹⁰ Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city,
¹¹ “No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.” ¹² Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. ¹³ And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.” ¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵ “My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.” ¹⁶ Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants. ¹⁷ So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over ¹⁸ to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. ¹⁹ After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. ²⁰ The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.



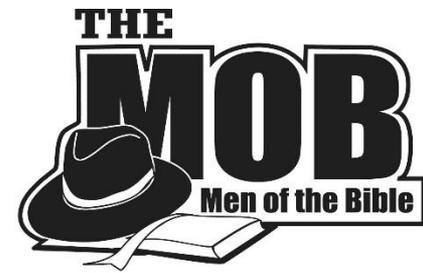
Genesis 24



¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take 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 kindred, 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.

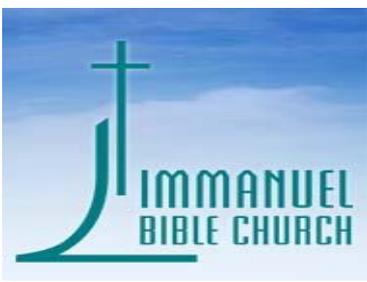


Genesis 24

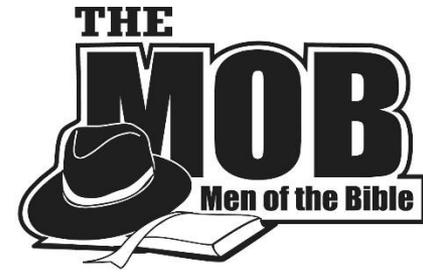


¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out 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 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down 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, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water to drink from your jar." ¹⁸ She said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water 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 water, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.

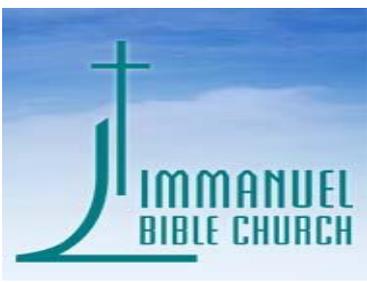


Genesis 24

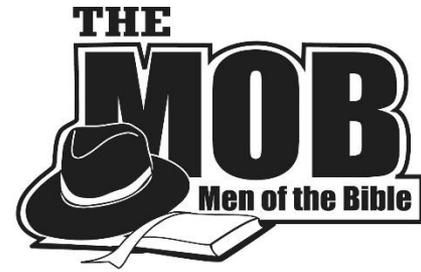


²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³ and said, "Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" ²⁴ She said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor." ²⁵ She added, "We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room 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 in the way to the house of my master's kinsmen." ²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.

²⁹ Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. ³⁰ As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. ³¹ He 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." ³² So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ³³ Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say." He said, "Speak on."



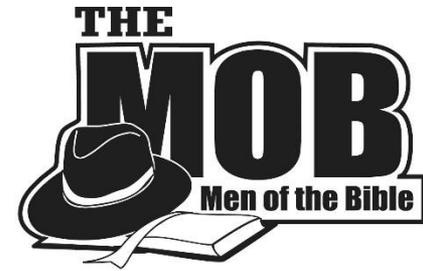
Genesis 24



³⁴ So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.' ³⁹ I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' ⁴⁰ But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house. ⁴¹ Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.' ⁴² "I came today to the spring and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, ⁴³ behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," ⁴⁴ and who will say 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.'



Genesis 24

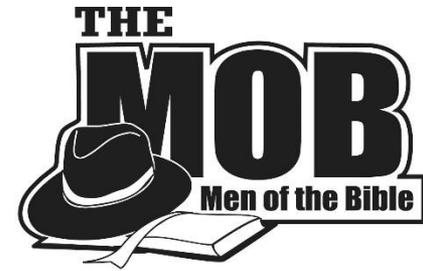


⁴⁵ “Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.’ So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. ⁴⁹ Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.”

⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing has come from the LORD; we cannot speak to you bad or good. ⁵¹ Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken.”



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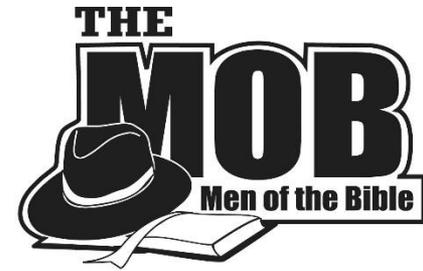


⁵² When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD. ⁵³ And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. ⁵⁴ And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master." ⁵⁵ Her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go." ⁵⁶ But he said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master." ⁵⁷ They said, "Let us call the young woman and ask her." ⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will go." ⁵⁹ So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"Our sister, may you become
thousands of ten thousands,
and may your offspring possess
the gate of those who hate him!"



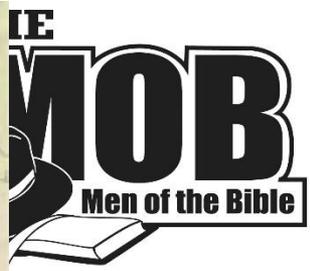
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⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

⁶² Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb.

⁶³ And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, “Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.



Abraham's Servant Finds Isaac a Wife

