

# Genesis 22-24

Bible Study

## Chapter 22

God's purpose stated up front

### Genesis 22:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Now it came to pass after these things that God **tested** Abraham, and **said to him**, "Abraham!"  
And he said, "Here I am."

<sup>2</sup>Then He said, "Take now your son, your **only son** Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

v.1

The 7<sup>th</sup> time that God had revealed Himself to Abraham since arriving in Canaan

"God" = '*Elohim*'—its essential meaning as the creator

v. 2

Abraham's greatest test—to sacrifice his son

"only son"—uniquely born

(NSB) "the same idea is the description of Jesus as the only begotten, John 1: 18. Indeed the Greek term for 'only begotten' is used to describe Isaac in Hebrews 11:17. The point is **not** that Abraham had no other children, but that this **was the unique child in whom all of the promises of God resided**"

### Hebrews 11:17

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,



(v.2) “to the land of Moriah”—a 50 mile, three day journey from Beersheba to Moriah

**Moriah** (identified with the temple sight in **Jerusalem**)  
(II Chron. 3:1)

II Chronicles 3: 1  
“Now Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah...”

Beersheba

Abraham obeys immediately

### Genesis 22:3-5

<sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

<sup>4</sup>Then on the **third day** Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

<sup>5</sup>And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the <sup>£</sup>lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.”

v. 4

“the third day”

(Companion)—no. 3 symbolic of the resurrection...exactly three days journey from Beersheba to Moriah”

v. 5 “Young men, Stay...” they might have tried to prevent the sacrifice

Abraham’s confidence (faith) in God— “we will worship, and **we will come back** to you”

### Genesis 22:6-7

<sup>6</sup>So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the **two of them went together**. (v.8 repeated)

<sup>7</sup>But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” Then he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering

## Genesis 22:8

<sup>8</sup>And Abraham said, “My son, God will **provide** for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.” So the **two of them went together**.

(NSB) “The wording is stronger in this order: ‘God Himself will provide’

“two of them went together”  
(Companion) “Compare the Father and Son in the antitype”

(v.2) Moriah = “where the Lord provides”

## Genesis 22:9-10

<sup>9</sup>Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

<sup>10</sup>And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Isaac by now knew he was the sacrifice, but he did not resist...

As Jesus Christ did not resist and completed the father’s will

### Genesis 22:11

<sup>11</sup>But the **Angel of the Lord** called to him from heaven and said, “**Abraham, Abraham!**” So he said, “Here I am.”

God called out to him **twice** for emphasis: first of seven times used by God to men:

Jacob (Gen. 46:2), Moses (Ex.3:4), Samuel (I Sam.3:10), Martha (Luke 10:41), Simon (Luke 22:31), Saul (Acts 9:4)

“Angel of the Lord”—God (preincarnate Jesus Christ)

### Genesis 22:12

<sup>12</sup>And He said, “**Do not lay your hand** on the lad, **or do anything** to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only *son*, from Me.”

“that you **fear God**”

(BKC) “to reverence Him as sovereign, trust Him implicitly, and obey Him without question

### Genesis 22:13

<sup>13</sup>Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him was* a ram caught in a thicket by its horns.

So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

Abraham's words in verse 8: "**God will provide** for Himself a lamb for a burnt offering"—  
came to pass

### Genesis 22:14 (Jehovah-jireh) (OKJ)

<sup>14</sup>And Abraham called the name of the place, <sup>£</sup>The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said *to* this day, "In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

(Ch. 16:13)-- Hagar gave the Lord the name: 'The God-Who-Sees' for **providing** for her

(NSB) "As God provided a ram instead of Abraham's son, so one day He would provide His own Son!

Moriah is where Jerusalem and later the temple were built. And it was at Jerusalem where the Savior would die"

## Genesis 22:15-18

<sup>15</sup>Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a **second time** out of heaven,

<sup>16</sup>and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*—

<sup>17</sup>**blessing** I will **bless** you, and **multiplying** I will **multiply** your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your **descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.**

<sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

v. 16 “By Myself I have sworn”

(NSB) “Or ‘I bring Myself under **complete obligation**’. When a man took an oath, it was considered unchangeable. When God took an oath, His eternity guaranteed the fulfillment of His word”

v. 17 “possess the gate”

(NSB) “In ancient walled cities, the structure protecting the gate was the most important; to control the gate was to control the city”

v. 18 All the nations of the earth would be blessed through his ‘seed’, the coming one, the Messiah



## Genesis 22:19

<sup>19</sup>So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Abraham returned with his son as he said he would in verse 5

V. 22-24: The family of Nahor, brother of Abraham (11: 29)

The significance: is the birth of Rebekah, who would become the wife of Isaac



## Genesis 22:20-24

<sup>20</sup>Now it came to pass after these things that it was told Abraham, saying, “Indeed Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:

<sup>21</sup>Huz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,

<sup>22</sup>Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel.”

<sup>23</sup>And Bethuel begot <sup>f</sup>**Rebekah**. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham’s brother.

<sup>24</sup>His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah

“Rebekah”= cord with a noose—to ensnare with beauty

Chapter 23  
Death and burial of Sarah

The only woman in the Bible  
whose age is mentioned

**Genesis 23:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; *these were* the years of the life of Sarah.

<sup>2</sup>So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that *is*, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

v. 1 Sarah, living 127 years—she saw Isaac reach adulthood

Son of Canaan (10:15)--Hittites

**Genesis 23:3-4**

<sup>3</sup>Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying,

<sup>4</sup>"*I am* a foreigner and a visitor among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

v. 4 "I am a foreigner and a visitor"—a resident alien  
(NSB) "His words were self-deprecating, to help him establish a bargaining position"

### Genesis 23:5-6

<sup>5</sup>And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him,

<sup>6</sup>“Hear us, my lord: You *are* a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, that you may bury your dead.”

V. 5 Abraham was held in high-esteem by the people of the land  
“mighty prince”= prince of (El) God

### Genesis 23:7-9

<sup>7</sup>Then Abraham stood up and bowed himself to the people of the land, the sons of Heth.

<sup>8</sup>And he spoke with them, saying, “If it is your wish that I bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and meet with Ephron the son of Zohar for me,

<sup>9</sup>that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he has, which *is* at the end of his field. Let him give it to me at the full price, as property for a burial place among you.”

Abraham wanted to purchase a burial spot for his family (not borrow one)

“cave of Machpelah”—Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah Jacob and Leah all buried there

Verses 10-15  
Example of Bedouin bargaining

**Genesis 23:10-11**

<sup>10</sup>Now Ephron dwelt among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the presence of the sons of Heth, all who entered at the gate of his city, saying,

<sup>11</sup>“No, my lord, hear me: **I give** you the field and the cave that *is* in it; **I give** it to you in the presence of the sons of my people. **I give** it to you. Bury your dead!”

**Genesis 23:12-16**

<sup>12</sup>Then Abraham bowed himself down before the people of the land;

<sup>13</sup>and he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, “If you *will give it*, please hear me. I will give you **money** for the field; take *it* from me and I will bury my dead there.”

<sup>14</sup>And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,

<sup>15</sup>“My lord, listen to me; the land *is worth* four hundred **shekels** of silver. What *is* that between you and me? So bury your dead.”

<sup>16</sup>And Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out the **silver** for Ephron which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, currency of the merchants.

v. 13 ‘**money**’—Abraham would pay in silver...coins were not used in this age  
v. 15 ‘**shekel**’ (a weight)—first time mentioned (450 shekels= 45 lbs silver)

### **Genesis 23:17-18**

<sup>17</sup>So the field of Ephron which *was* in Machpelah, which *was* before Mamre, the field and the cave which *was* in it, and all the trees that *were* in the field, which *were* within all the surrounding borders, were deeded

<sup>18</sup>to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

v. 17 Precise details are given in the deeded land.... and witnesses v. 18

The place was Mamre where God had promised Sarah would give birth to a son within the year (18:1-15)

(Word) “In a sense the purchase of the plot of land of Machpelah was a step toward Abraham and his descendents acquisition of the whole land of Canaan”

### **Genesis 23:19-20**

<sup>19</sup>And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre (that *is*, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

<sup>20</sup>So the field and the cave that *is* in it were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Heth as property for a burial place.

(BKC) “Canaan was now Abraham’s new native land. But interestingly the only part of the promised land Abraham himself ever received he bought, and that was a burial cave”

## Ancient burial cave in Palestine



## Chapter 24

140 yrs. (Barnes)...Sarah dead 3 yrs

### Genesis 24:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and **the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.**

<sup>2</sup>So Abraham said to the **oldest servant** of his house, who ruled over all that he had, “Please, put your hand under my thigh,

<sup>3</sup>and I will make you swear 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;

<sup>4</sup>but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac.

v. 1 The first time explicitly said that Abraham had been blessed

v. 2 “**oldest servant**”—possibly Eliezer of (15:2)

“under my thigh”—to acknowledge and pledge obedience (oath)

v. 3 “make you swear”—because it being a highly important matter—to look for a wife for Isaac from the land of his family

Not from the Canaanites—because of their worship of false gods

v. 4 ‘my country...family’—Mesopotamia (v. 10)

## Genesis 24:5-9

<sup>5</sup>And the servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?”

<sup>6</sup>But Abraham said to him, “Beware that you do not take my son back there.

<sup>7</sup>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 <sup>£</sup>descendants I give this land,’ He will send **His angel before you**, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

<sup>8</sup>And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there.”

<sup>9</sup>So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

v. 7

Abraham is confident that God will guide his servant  
“His angel”—(NSB) “grammatically equivalent to the expression ‘Angel of the Lord’...a way of referring to God’s presence”

v. 9 “put his hand under the thigh of Abraham...”

(Word) “Since the OT particularly associated God with life and Abraham had been circumcised as a mark of the covenant, placing his hand under Abraham’s thigh made an intimate association with some fundamental religious ideas”



## Genesis 24:10

<sup>10</sup>Then the servant took ten of his master's **camels** and departed, for all his master's goods *were in his hand*. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of **Nahor**.

Map of Ancient Near East



Nahor (Haran) –where  
the family lived  
(450 mile journey)

“Camels” —rare in this  
ancient period...was a  
sign great wealth

**Ten** camels to bring  
the bride’s party  
back

“all his master’s goods”  
--many gifts for the  
bride’s family  
(Abraham’s wealth)

## Genesis 24:11-14

<sup>11</sup>And he 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*.

<sup>12</sup>Then he said, “O Lord God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

<sup>13</sup>Behold, *here* I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.

<sup>14</sup>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**. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master.”

→ The custom was for women, especially unmarried girls to draw water for the flocks



v.12-14

Abraham's servant prays to God that the wife of Isaac be the one that fulfills his request

**Genesis 24:15-17**

<sup>15</sup>And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, **Rebekah**, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.

<sup>16</sup>Now the young woman *was* very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

<sup>17</sup>And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."

v. 15 Rebekah—grand daughter of Nahor...grand niece of Abraham

**Genesis 24:18-21**

<sup>18</sup>So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink.

<sup>19</sup>And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw *water* for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

<sup>20</sup>Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw *water*, and drew for all his camels.

<sup>21</sup>And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not.

v. 21 But the journey was successful

## Genesis 24:22-25

<sup>22</sup>So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten *shekels* of gold,  
<sup>23</sup>and said, “Whose daughter *are* you? Tell me, please, is there room *in* your father’s house for us to lodge?”  
<sup>24</sup>So she said to him, “I *am* the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah’s son, whom she bore to Nahor.”  
<sup>25</sup>Moreover she said to him, “We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge.”

v. 22-23 Abraham’s servant rewards her for serving him (also showing the wealth of his master), then asks her who her the name of her father

v. 24 Her response shows she is from Abraham’s family: Nahor was Abraham’s brother, and Milcah was the daughter of his older brother, Haran

## Genesis 24:26-28

<sup>26</sup>Then the man bowed down his head and **worshiped the Lord**.  
<sup>27</sup>And he said, “Blessed *be* the Lord God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy 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.”  
<sup>28</sup>So the young woman ran and told her mother’s household these things.

The servant was so moved that his prayer had been answered...and that he had been led “to the house of my master’s *brothers*” (v. 27)

### Genesis 24:29-31

<sup>29</sup>Now Rebekah had a brother whose name *was* Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well.

<sup>30</sup>So it came to pass, when he 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 stood by the camels at the well.

<sup>31</sup>And 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."

Laban appears to be welcoming but what he really noticed was the rings and bracelets...camels were rare at this point....so he was thinking about rewards for himself

### Genesis 24:32-33

<sup>32</sup>Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who *were* with him.

<sup>33</sup>*Food* was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

(V. 32-49)

Abraham's servant tells the family of his mission from Abraham



## Eliezar's mission on behalf of Abraham

### Genesis 24:34-41

<sup>34</sup>So he said, “I *am* Abraham’s servant.

<sup>35</sup>The Lord has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.

<sup>36</sup>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.

<sup>37</sup>Now 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;

<sup>38</sup>but you shall go to my father’s house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.’

<sup>39</sup>And I said to my master, ‘Perhaps the woman will not follow me.’

<sup>40</sup>But he said to me, ‘The Lord, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father’s house.

<sup>41</sup>You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give *her* to you, then you will be released from my oath.’



**Genesis 24:42-49**

<sup>42</sup>“And this day I came to the well and said, ‘O Lord God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go,

<sup>43</sup>behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw *water*, and I say to her, “Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink,”

<sup>44</sup>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.*’

<sup>45</sup>“But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew *water*. And I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’

<sup>46</sup>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.

<sup>47</sup>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.

<sup>48</sup>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.

<sup>49</sup>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.”

## Genesis 24:50-53

<sup>50</sup>Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak to you either bad or good.

<sup>51</sup>Here *is* Rebekah before you; take *her* and go, and let her be your master’s son’s wife, as the Lord has spoken.”

<sup>52</sup>And it came to pass, when Abraham’s servant heard their words, that he worshiped the Lord, *bowing himself* to the earth.

<sup>53</sup>Then the 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.

V. 51(BKC) “In that society a woman’s brother gave his sister in marriage, which explains why Laban, Rebekah’s brother was the negotiator in this marriage contract”

v. 52 The servant thanks God for manifesting the choice he had made

v. 53 Rebekah and her family were given expensive gifts as “bride money”



## Genesis 24:54-58

<sup>54</sup>And he 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.”

<sup>55</sup>But her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman stay with us *a few* days, at least ten; after that she may go.”

v. 55 “*a few* days, at least ten”—literally: ‘days or ten’  
(Companion) “a longer but defined period” (Word): ‘a year or ten months’

- The family asked for her to stay a longer period of time which may be up to a year

Abraham’s servant would have nothing to do with a delay

<sup>56</sup>And he said to them, “Do not hinder me, since the Lord has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master.”

<sup>57</sup>So they said, “We will call the young woman and ask her personally.”

<sup>58</sup>Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” And she said, “**I will go**”

## Genesis 24:59-61

<sup>59</sup>So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her **nurse**, and Abraham's servant and his men.

<sup>60</sup>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 The gates of those who hate them."

<sup>61</sup>Then Rebekah and **her maids** arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

v. 60

(Word) "Rebekah's name sounds even more like a play on the root 'to bless' than does Abraham's, and this connection is here made explicit"

"Her name, like his, contains the consonants *b* and *r*, which begin the verb, bless (*brk*)"

**"thousands of ten thousands"**

'ten thousands'= myriads or uncountable

(Word) "is another play on her name...for ten thousand is *rebahah*, again quite similar to Rebekah's own name"

"It is through Rebekah that a promise of a multitude of descendents for Abraham will begin to be realized"

"and may your descendents possess the gates of those who hate them"—the promise that had been made to Abraham in chapter 22: 17

## Genesis 24:62-65

<sup>62</sup>Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South.

<sup>63</sup>And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels *were* coming.

<sup>64</sup>Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel;

<sup>65</sup>for she had said to the servant, “Who *is* this man walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It *is* my master.” So she took a veil and covered herself.

v. 65

A bride would put a veil on until her wedding

## Genesis 24:66-67

<sup>66</sup>And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

<sup>67</sup>Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s *death*.

## Lessons

To fear God means to revere him, trust him and obey without question—Abraham proved it by offering Isaac (Chapter 22)

The only part of the promised land Abraham received he bought—a burial cave (Ch. 23)

**God's promises do not end with this life**

God provides for those who live by faith—he worked out beautifully the circumstances in acquiring a wife for Isaac (Chapter 24)

Abraham purchased a small part of Canaan, but much more was to come—all disciples must look forward to the eventual fulfillment of God's promises