

## Genesis – 23 - 24

Genesis 22:19 mentions that Abraham was staying in Beersheba. Sarah's death at Hebron was about twenty-four miles from Beersheba. For the convenience of feeding his many flocks, Abraham probably had several places to stay. Abraham *coming to mourn* and *weep for her* (23:2) refers to his coming from Beersheba to Hebron: the place of her death.

Genesis 22:20-24 – news that Abraham's brother Nahor had a family, and a granddaughter named Rebekah

### 23:1-20

Why are technicalities of the purchase included in Scripture?

Abraham was “a stranger and a sojourner” in a foreign land. On this earth, he was “dwelling in tents” the most temporary of dwellings. But he looked forward to the permanent home promised to him, not only the land promised to his descendants, but the city of God.

The major issue of this chapter is the fulfillment of the promises. The promise of descendants and of possession of the land has not been fulfilled, but those to whom the promises had been made began to die. How did Abraham's purchase of the field show his faith in God's promises?

Read Hebrews 11:8-16

### 24:1-14

Abraham sent his chief servant out of the land of Canaan to the city of Nahor in Haran to find a wife from among his family line for Isaac. Isaac was forty years old at the time (24:67; 25:20). Why is the instruction in 2 Corinthians 6:14 so important?

Abraham's servant prayed to Abraham's God. Remember, Abraham had dedicated his whole household to the Lord. Notice the test the chosen girl would pass was not arbitrary. It would demonstrate a hardworking and kind-hearted woman.

### 24:15-27

Describe a time in your life when the unmistakable working hand of God displayed itself in such a way? When are signs a legitimate means of knowing God's will?

### 24:28-33, 34-49

Eliezer had to convince Rebekah's family to permit her to return with him. He does not delay to eat, but makes his case with the family, including his own prayer and the way it was answered.

### 24:50-58

Laban and Bethuel submit to God's will, but do they seem joyful? In verse 55 we see that Rebekah's mother and brother tried to delay. Now whether this brother is Laban (v. 29) the same who originally complied, or another brother is not clear. What is clear is that self interests were in direct conflict with a plan that God had made clear. How can we keep from finding ourselves similar situations?

### 24:58-61

God's will was clear, but ultimately the choice was Rebekah's. What parallel can we draw from this personal decision? Read John 1:10-12

### 24:62-68

Does Isaac see Rebekah's face before marrying her? The servant tells Isaac all that had occurred, and Isaac also recognized God's will, and married Rebekah, and loved her. Notice that Eliezer calls Isaac his master, and that Rebekah enters Sarah's tent. They are the new patriarch and matriarch.