

## What You Need to Know About ISAAC & JACOB:

“The Lord who leads armies makes this solemn vow: ‘Be sure of this: Just as I have intended so it will be; just as I have planned, it will happen.’” Isaiah 14:24 NET

### Study Number Two – Genesis 24:34-67

Ok, we’re in study number two, searching for a bride for Isaac. Abraham is 140 years old and he’s feeling a deep concern about one thing that he hasn’t gotten done.

The last thing on Abraham’s list, and the death of his wife three years earlier probably even impacted him greatly, but he was the only link between God’s promises and the unconditional covenant that had been given to him and to the next generation.

That meant that the person who Isaac married was critical and must be under God’s blessing. And so what he does is he sends his servant Eliezer in search of a bride.

And it’s going to be fun because we’re going to part of our last passage in a speech that Eliezer is getting ready to give them.

Eliezer makes the 450-mile trip and at the well he prays that the right person would be revealed to him. And that person

was Rebekah. And he's getting ready to sit down at the meal with Laban, her brother, and Bethuel and Milcah—the family. And before he will eat, he has to tell them about the mission that he's on.

The loyalty and devotion are touching. But that's exactly the way Jesus conducted business, remember in John 4:

### John 4:34

My need is to do the will of Him that sent Me and to finish the work that He's given me to do.

Sitting down and eating is going to be secondary to the accomplishment of the mission. And we let the curtain drop at a very critical point in the study. Center stage, Eliezer's coming to the front. And in verse 33 it says:

### Genesis 24:33

Then food was set before him, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say." "Then tell us," [Laban] said.

First things first.

Now we need to get in our mind, Eliezer has been a servant. And if they gave gold watches, he's wearing one. He was serving when Abraham was still childless. Remember what he told the Lord in Genesis 15? He said:

“We are still childless and my servant Eliezer of Damascus is going to be the heir apparent to my whole estate.” (see Genesis 15:2)

In other words, “God, are You really going to promise someone? Are You going to give us a son? Or is it going to be Eliezer?”

Now what we have to recognize here, which is so beautiful, is that Eliezer has continued to be a servant. Even after the birth of Isaac, his loyalty to his master Abraham and now his new master Isaac, he has not changed in his love, devotion and loyalty. He’s just the greatest illustration in these two chapters of a person who really, really has no sense of offense or any sense of pride, other than being a faithful servant.

So now he’s getting ready to give his after dinner speech, but it’s going to be a before dinner speech. He’s going to tell them why he’s come and how all this fits in.

### John 3:30

He, Christ, must continually be increasing and I must be getting out of the way.

What a servant. His total identity is with his master Abraham.

In our last study we saw the word “master” nine times, as he

refers to Abraham as his servant.

In the book *Shape* by a young man named Eric Rees, he quotes Helen Keller and this statement really kind of sets the stage for our passage:

(S.H.A.P.E.: Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life by Erik Rees)

... “I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.”

46: Helen Keller. Quoted in Susan Miller, *True Woman: The Beauty and Strength of a Godly Woman*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 1997, 112.

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Thomas Edison said:

(S.H.A.P.E.: Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose For Life by Erik Rees)

... “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

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Anne Graham Lotz as you know is Billy Graham’s daughter. This is what she says:

(The Joy of My Heart by Anne Graham Lotz)

As we totally yield our lives to the control of God's Spirit within us, He uses:

the responsibilities and relationships and ridicule,  
the opportunities and obstacles and obligations,  
the pressures and pain and problems,  
the success and sickness and solitude . . .

He uses *all things* to work for our ultimate good, which is increasing, progressive, glorious conformity to the image of Jesus Christ. (Rom. 8:28)

We are God's treasure!

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He's kind of like a "no-known" because he came in at Genesis 15 and now we see him in this chapter. We almost want to say, "Wow! What a godly man and what an illustration of being a faithful servant."

This speech is very critical to his future and the success of his mission. He has to sell them on giving up their daughter to go for a 450-mile trip to no-man's land and to marry somebody she's never met, all on the basis of the speech that this guy gives. So we think that maybe he just might be a little stressed as he gets ready to talk to them?

As we listen to this talk, we understand the wisdom and the godly guidance of the man, and the parts of the speech that he tells about that we read in our last passage, we will see how

he uses it and twists it around to sell them on the fact that they need to know that Rebekah is God's lady for Isaac in the carrying on of the Abrahamic covenant. That's the whole purpose of the scenario.

Talk about pressure, huh?

**v. 34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.**

"So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant.'"

**v. 35 The Lord has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys.**

"The Lord has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys."

"I am Abraham's servant." And the very first thing he does is he brings the Lord into the speech. Right away he's focusing on God's PURPOSE in all of this.

Why is Abraham so successful?

"the Lord has blessed [him] my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy."

Obviously they've already gotten that feeling by the entourage that's come with the ten camels and all the servants on this mission.

There are **EIGHT THINGS** that he outlines there to describe the wealth of his master Abraham:

1. "sheep,"
2. "cattle,"
3. "silver,"
4. "gold,"
5. "menservants,"
6. "maidservants,"
7. "camels," and
8. "donkeys."

Now when we get to verse 36, notice something. Sometimes when we get to a certain age, we feel like we have to apologize when we tell people how old you are. And so we try to keep it a secret. We don't see any ages here, do we? There's a purpose in that.

Rebekah's probably quite a bit younger than 40 and so to say

that Isaac is 40 would probably be a little bit of a negative pitch, as part of his message. So he doesn't mention the fact that Sarah was 90, Abraham was 100, and now Isaac is 30. That just is not a good sales pitch, is it?

See the wisdom of this?

**v. 36 My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns.**

“My master's wife Sarah”—and he doesn't even say that she's gone home to be with the Lord three years ago—“has borne him a son in her old age,”—that's fine—“and he has given him everything he owns.”

Now how do we think Eliezer feels about this? With that very statement the loyalty and devotion to Abraham and Isaac is more important than him being the heir apparent to all of Abraham's estate if he remained childless. And he lives comfortably with that.

And it's so beautiful to see it. It's more important to be a servant of his master Abraham and his son Isaac than it is to be the heir apparent to all of this wealth that Abraham has accumulated.

This kind of refreshes us a little bit about what was said about Abraham of the Lord:

Genesis 15:2, 3

But Abraham said, “O Sovereign, Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children, so a servant in my household shall be my heir.”

Here in the speech, right in the beginning, he sets aside this fact that he is now no longer the heir apparent to the estate.

**v. 37 And my master made me swear an oath, and said, ‘You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live,**

“And my master”—see how he uses that term?—“made me swear an oath, and said, “You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live,”

The very first thing that Abraham said to him on this mission was, “Don’t get a wife from the Canaanites.”

Abraham thinks that he’s living with a short fuse. Now granted, he’s going to live 35 more years but he doesn’t know that. And so he thinks that possibly he might die while the servant’s off looking for a wife for Isaac. And so he puts this stipulation on it to make it quite clear.

Isn’t it interesting how sometimes we think our thoughts are exactly what God has put within our minds and they have to be from Him? Obviously many times it is generated from within our own hearts and our own desires and the Lord

doesn't have anything to do with it.

Margaret Thatcher made this great statement:

When Christians meet their purpose is not—or should not be—to ascertain what is the mind of the majority, but what is the mind of the Holy Spirit—something which may be quite different.

—Margaret Thatcher, in a Saturday Evening Post article

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And what she says is exactly true. The key to success at any church is a group of people who want the mind of the Lord in the given situation and are willing to surrender to that on a daily basis—and pray for that.

God is in the business of blessing us when we're open and receptive in this kind of way. And this servant has to accept that. And he's going on a mission that's very critical and crucial and the line of blessing is going to come from Abraham's family.

**v. 38 but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.'**

“but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.””

In verse 37 we have what NOT TO DO.

In verse 38, we have what TO DO.

What he's not to do is to get someone from the Canaanites. And in CONTRAST, verse 38, he must do THREE THINGS:

1. "go to my father's family,"
2. "to my own clan," and
3. "get a wife for my son."

The thrilling thing about this is that he has made this journey, he's on the way, and God has blessed and directed in every way.

The servant could say, "I've made a long trip and I've seen a lot of places, and here I am at the center of God's will."

**v. 39 "Then I asked my master, 'What if the woman will not come back with me?'"**

"Then I asked my master,"

Isn't this great? What he's doing with this sales pitch is he's unnerving them and their defense and their tension. He actually says to them at the table:

“I asked my master,”

Because they’re thinking that. Who would be crazy enough to go 450 miles with a strange man and send their daughter off to this country with a promise that she is going to become a bride?

““What if the woman will not come back with me?””

Now there’s going to be FOUR QUESTIONS.

1. “What if the woman will not come back with me?”

It’ll help us understand the speech as it goes along here.

In other words, “What is plan B if she doesn’t go and come with me? Then what shall I do?”

**v. 40 “He replied, “The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father’s family.”**

“He replied, “The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father’s family.”

Abraham is speaking the exact truth. It’s got to come from the Abrahamic line. And this bride, who’s going to carry it on, has

to come from that same line of blessing—the line of Abraham.

And of course, the beauty of the story is, Rebekah fills that role perfectly as we move along here in the story.

So the repetition of the story might seem like that because we read the original account in our last study. But understand that it's a whole different ballgame here. He is picking out very specific things that the Spirit of God is prompting him to say for the purpose of being successful in this mission.

Now he quotes his master Abraham— isn't that great?

“The Lord, before whom I have walked,”

What a testimony—what a witness.

“[He] will send his angel with you”

Now remember in the original account he said “He will send His angel before you.” In other words, He will lead and He will guide. Here he just says “with you.”

And so he's on a mission and he's giving his speech.

**v. 41 Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my oath even if they refuse to give her to you—you will be released from my oath.'**

“Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my

oath even if they refuse to give her to you—you will be released from my oath.””

“This is what happened just a couple of hours ago sir and family, this is the vindication of the trip. I’ve told you about my master, his mission. I’ve brought the mission here to this place, God’s directed me here, and this is what happened this afternoon just a little bit ago to explain it to you.”

**v. 42 “When I came to the spring today, I said, ‘O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come.**

“When I came to the spring today, I said, “O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come.”

What’s this guy doing that marks him off so beautifully? He prays, he prays, he prays. And he doesn’t apologize to the family.

“When I got to the well, it was multiple choice. There were lots of ladies coming up to get water and I needed to know which one it was going to be. And so I asked God to give me success on the journey which I have taken.”

In other words, “I prayed for direction.”

R. A. Torrey said:

We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services, but few conversions, much machinery, but few results.

—R. A. Torrey, American evangelist (1856-1928)

*R.A. Torrey, How to Obtain Fullness of Power*

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And here this servant believes it. And he is a witness to the fact that God brought him all along the way.

Joni Eareckson Tada was talking about prayer and she said this:

Like art, like music, like so many other disciplines, prayer can only be appreciated when we actually spend time in it. Spending time with the Master will elevate your thinking. The more you pray, the more will be revealed. You will understand. You will smile and nod your head as you identify with others who fight long battles and find great joy on their knees.

—Joni Eareckson Tada

(PreachingToday.com)

It's just an amazing thing how God is really honoring her life.

Instead of sitting around in a wheelchair, having a pity party, she's founded an international worldwide ministry of providing wheelchairs for as many people as she can. And God has used many of her other talents and gifts as a result of the fact that she doesn't sit around in the chair inactive. She's certainly a prayer warrior.

Now, here's what he said to the Lord:

**v. 43 See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar,"**

"See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, 'Please let me drink a little water from your jar,'"

He's telling them exactly what he did. And does God honor that? Old Gideon was just scared to death of the Midianites. And so he had to have two signs. The first day, the fleece has to be dry and the ground has to be wet. And the next day, the fleece has got to be wet and the ground's got to be dry. Did God chide him for that? No, He just made it possible so that he would be convinced that He was the guy for the hour.

Verse 44 is the CONDITION:

**v. 44 and if she says to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too," let her be the one the Lord has chosen for my master's son.'**

“and if she says to me, ‘Drink, and I’ll draw water for your camels too,’ let her be the one the Lord has chosen for my master’s son.””

“That’s my prayer folks.”

Now we talked about that. Twenty-five gallons for each camel is almost 250 gallons. That’s 84 trips back and forth with a three-gallon jug.

It does say that she ran so she might have made it every two or three minutes and that would have cut it down to maybe three and a half hours of work. As the servant watched her labor enthusiastically to do this.

**v. 45 “Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’”**

“Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, “Please give me a drink.””

Ever thought that maybe just in a request God is going to turn our whole life around on that one request? Or that one small contact? That one thing that we were faithful to do and we didn’t understand why at all it came together, but now we do?

Here is a young lady whose whole destiny and future is unfolding in her response to the request for a drink of water.

**v. 46 “She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too.’ So I drank, and she watered the camels also.**

“She quickly lowered her jar”—he tells the family—“from her shoulder and said, “Drink, and I’ll water your camels too.” So I drank, and she watered the camels also.”

And they’re all saying, “Now we understand why she’s so late! She’s really been working!”

Our first question:1. “What if the woman won’t come back with me?”

But now here we have the next question:

2. “Whose daughter are you?”

He doesn’t know any of this yet.

**v. 47 “I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ “She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.’ “Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms,**

“I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?” ‘She said, “The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.”

“Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms,”

Why? He rejoices: “It’s part of the family, she qualifies, she’s perfect in every way, exactly. I’ve been led to Abraham’s brother, Nahor’s family.”

And here he doesn’t have to have any more conviction. He gives her these pieces of jewelry.

Now notice what else he does.

He prays for direction, then he gets it. What does he do afterwards? He’s not going to run to the house and say, “Hey, this is what happened!” No, he gets on his face before God again and he praises God.

**v. 48 and I bowed down and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son.**

“and I bowed down and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son.”

He is completely convinced that this is the answer and that God has been faithful.

An English Puritan said this:

(Day by Day with the English Puritans compiled and edited by Randall J. Pederson)

. . . certainly He will not fail to perform to His people the promises of His free grace in that season and fullness of time, which may best suit their welfare and His glory.

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That has to be the testimony of this servant.

“I’m on time, it’s the full time, it’s the right time, it’s the right place, and the right person. God has put all of this together. We can actually say it’s a God-thing.”

And that’s the only way we can explain it.

Thomas Merton is a Catholic writer. He has one of the most beautiful prayers:

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I

will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

*Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999), p. 79; submitted by Haddon Robinson*

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For the servant, he's learned what's right.

Now this is so cool. The rest of this study is going to get so exciting, because now we watch him close the deal. And we watch the way God responds and there's some powerful lessons in these remaining verses.

**v. 49 Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn.”**

When a guy says “Now” that means he's getting close to the end of his speech.

“Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn.”

If we were to try to put that in laymen's terminology, he would say, “The briefing is now complete. It's time for a decision. What are you going to do with the information that I have had

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the privilege of just sharing with you? I need to know now so I can know what to do next. If you're not going to go along with it, then plan B has got to come into focus and I need to know that before we sit down and eat. I have to have some kind of an answer from you."

**v. 50 Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other.**

"Laban"—the son—"and Bethuel"—the father—"answered, "This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other."

In other words, they're totally and completely convinced it's from the Lord. And it comes from both of them. It validates the hand of divine providence. It's a God-thing.

"we can say nothing to you one way or the other."

"God is obviously spoken through all of these things which you have described for us."

**v. 51 Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed."**

"Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed."

Isn't that a wonderful testimony? Everybody gets warm fuzzies in their heart. But then when we have an emotional experience and we sleep on it, the picture gets a little more different in the morning.

Watch this because family blood runs real thick and we can make some big mistakes as well.

Initially, **THREE COMMANDS:**

1. "take her,"
2. "go," and
3. "let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed."

**v. 52 When Abraham's servant heard what they said, he bowed down to the ground before the Lord.**

"When Abraham's servant heard what they said,"

He hits the ground again! He is constantly in prayer and thanksgiving.

"he bowed down to the ground before the Lord."

What a thrill! What an excitement to know that's how God works in our lives.

Do we pray enough to really say that we know the Lord well? And that we are experiencing and we have experienced direction in our life today from Him? Are we aware of that? Have we kept company with Him all day?

Anne Graham Lotz just cuts to the chase when she says:

(The Joy of My Heart by Anne Graham Lotz)

God loves for us to come to Him and ask Him for things. But I wonder what kind of relationship I would have with my husband if I shared only about fifteen minutes a day with him and spent the first minute or two thanking him for what he had done for me and the rest of the time asking him to do something else for me! I doubt we would have a very good relationship! My husband wants me to love him simply for who he is. And Jesus Christ, Who is my heavenly husband, also wants to be loved for Who He is. Not just for what He has done, or may do, but for Who He is in Himself. Would you make time each day to praise Jesus for Who He is? Read the Bible, gleaning His attributes that you might live your life in praise of Who He is.

p. 273

(Our Lord Prays for His Own: Thoughts on John 17 by Marcus Rainsford)

. . . He “lifted up his eyes to heaven.” Earth had been a wilderness to Him, and He was about to be trodden in its winepress; the baptism with which He was to be baptized, and

of which His soul was straitened till it should be accomplished, was about to begin. “He lifted up his eyes to heaven”; His rest was *there*, His throne was *there*, His angels were *there*. Oh, that desiring look! that expectant look! that confiding look! He “lifted up his eyes to heaven,” the weary, longing, thirsting eyes, “Father, the hour is come.”  
p. 34

(S.H.A.P.E.: Finding & Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose For Life by Erik Rees)

This journey with God leaves you energized and focused on finishing life faithful [fruitful] and fulfilled.  
p. 12

Notice verse 53. He’s closing the deal.

**v. 53 Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.**

“Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother [Laban] and to her mother [Milcah].”

Now Bethuel probably is still in a wheelchair. He’s getting up there in years. If he’s anywhere near the age of Abraham, he’s at least a 140 so we would expect that he would not be on center stage here very much.

**v. 54** Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there. When they got up the next morning, he said, “Send me on my way to my master.”

“Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there. When they got up the next morning, he said, ‘Send me on my way to my master.’”

“The night’s over. It’s been a long trip, but it’s been successful and I am ready to leave immediately and go to the house.”

Now the danger of getting mad at our mate and then sleeping on it is that it changes everything and makes it worse. Notice what happens here.

Last night around the dinner table with all the emotion and the evidences of God being at work, “Take her and go!” Now they’ve been thinking about it. They slept on it.

“Do you realize we’re not going to see her again? She’s going 450 miles. We aren’t even going to get to see the grandkids.”

All of these things are going on in their minds when they’re lying there.

**v. 55** But her brother and her mother replied, “Let the girl remain with us ten days or so; then you may go.”

“But her brother and her mother replied, ‘Let the girl remain with us ten days or so; then you may go.’”

Oh, the DANGER OF DELAY. The danger of EXCUSE. The danger of PUTTING OFF and the vain regrets that come to those who do this and waste time that God intended for these purposes.

We can't blame them because of the intense emotions that are here. This is their daughter. She's a beautiful girl. She's a virgin. She has been so helpful around the house.

But let's look at a couple of verses from Ephesians:

Ephesians 4:26, 27

Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

As the sun went down and they had second thoughts. And they wanted to prolong this thing for a period of time before they consummate the mission.

Look at the servant—verse 56:

**v. 56 But he said to them, “Do not detain me, now that the Lord has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master.”**

“But he said to them, ‘Do not detain me, now that the Lord has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master.’”

“There’s been success. You folks and your ideas are standing in the way of God’s providential guidance and the success of this mission by what you’re asking me to do in staying here for this period of time.”

### KEY PHRASE:

“Do not detain me,”

“There is no reason to delay. I must be quick about completing my mission.”

Chasing through scripture to see what delay did in certain people’s lives, and what were the consequences of those delays:

1. Judges 19—This guy had a wife and she divorced him and went back to live with her parents. And in Judges 19 he goes back to try to get her from the family. And they’re all excited to see him and they say she can go. But they wine and dine all that evening and the old dad says, “Oh spend the night, it’s too late. Then you can go tomorrow.” That’s the same song, on the fifth day they’re still feasting and delaying. And on the fifth day finally he says, “We’re leaving whether you like it or not.” And they get to the homosexual capital of the world and end up with her being slain.

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A tragic, sad, sad story in the book of Judges of how the tribe of Benjamin had become so sick and so sinful, that out of that delay came the death of this young woman.

2. 1 Kings 13—When the nation was divided, after Solomon, Rehoboam stayed in the south, Jeroboam went to the north. What was the first thing he did when he went to the north? He put up two gold calves because he didn't want any of his people in the north betraying him and going down to Jerusalem and worshipping and deciding to form a rebellion against him—totally insecure.

So he put a golden calf in Bethel and he put another golden calf up in the north in Dan so nobody would have an excuse for not worshiping there. It would be idolatry but that was okay, he was for that.

God sent a man of God to that very first offering by Jeroboam on the altar to the golden calf. And that man of God was told don't eat anything, don't drink anything, don't stay anywhere, don't go back home the same way you came. Those were the instructions.

He goes up there and God uses him and Jeroboam puts out his hand like he's going to harm him and his hand turns to leprosy. The man of God heals the hand and Jeroboam is so thankful he said, "Oh come on home and eat." And he said, "I can't do it. I've got to get out of here." And he leaves.

Well, there were two boys there who were sons of an old prophet. That old prophet said, “Tell me which way the man of God went. I’m going to go get him.” And he chases the guy and then he lies to him.

He said, “I’m a man of God too and God said it’s alright for you to come back and eat.” He goes back and he eats and he ends up a fatality alongside the road. He delayed in fulfilling the mission, he believed the lie of another prophet and lost his life.

And this ought to tell us something about the fact of the urgency of the time we have to be faithful.

3. David—Reaching the pinnacle of his career, David delays military action and stays and spends the spring sleazing on the roof of his palace and the rest is history, in destroying his family and all the tragic consequences.

4. Acts 21—The same thing happened to the apostle Paul in Acts 21. He is determined to go to Jerusalem because it’s God’s will to go to Jerusalem and they sent Agabus the prophet up from Jerusalem, telling him he’s going to suffer terribly if he does this and takes his belt and ties it around him and it’s a big emotional deal. And this is what the apostle Paul said:

“What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” And since he would not be

persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, “The will of the Lord be done.” (ref. Acts 21:15, 16)

5. John 4—Did Jesus have that same feeling about the mission that He was on? Why did He say that in John 4:35? “Don’t tell me there are four months and then comes harvest. Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, they are white already to harvest. And he that reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit unto life eternal; that both he that sows and he that reaps may be rejoicing together.” (ref. John 4:35, 36)

### John 9:4

I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day, for the night is coming when no man can work.

6. Jesus in the Upper Room—And then that very, very hour that He’s in the Upper Room, knowing that His hour had come. He was on schedule to die upon the cross the next day. And He knew that as He met with His disciples on that final time.

All these illustrations are powerful. And listen to the servant:

“Do not detain me”—“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (ref. Philippians 3:14)

Billy Graham certainly has a right to say it:

Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened. –Billy Graham

*Source: Harold Myra and Marshall Shelly,  
The Leadership Secrets of Billy Graham (Zondervan, 2005)*

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Now, what does a family usually do when they don't get what they want? And they buck up against the guy that's saying, "Hey, it's got to be done yesterday." How do they handle that?

Well, throw the ball into the court of the girl that's involved in it. And they're both thinking that this is going to be a win for them. Because Rebekah's had time to sleep on it too, and she's thinking about it if they've been thinking about it. They think she's going to say, "Awe please, just give me ten days to get my wardrobe together and get everything planned for the wedding, and all this stuff that we've got to do."

No wonder she's been chosen.

**v. 57 Then they said, "Let's call the girl and ask her about it."**

"Then they said, 'Let's call the girl and ask her about it.'"

And they're thinking they've got a bird nest on the ground on

this.

**v. 58 So they called Rebekah and asked her, “Will you go with this man?” “I will go,” she said.**

“So they called Rebekah and asked her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ ‘I will go,’ she said.”

What a courageous answer. What a word from the Lord. What a verification to Eliezer and his faithfulness and his loyalty, the success of the mission.

Our third question:

3. “Will you go with this man?”

“I will go,”

Isaiah heard that same voice in the temple saying, “Whom shall I go? And who will go for us?” And he said, “Here am I, Lord. Send me!” (ref. Isaiah 6:8)

Ruth said it when Orpah turned around and went back:

**Ruth 1:16, 17**

“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be

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it ever so severely if anything but death separates you and me.”

We realize the courage of Rebekah in being willing to say, “I’ll go. I know it’s God’s plan. It’s His purpose. He will bless abundantly.” And with that beautiful smile on her face, having made the decision, she knew it was the right thing to do.

That’s the most decisive remark in the whole of the study.

Rebekah is really, really, really eager and excited.

He knows he’s on the way and he is so excited about going home and the fine success in the mission.

**v. 59 So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham’s servant and his men.**

“So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham’s servant and his men.”

**v. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies.”**

“And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, ‘Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring

possess the gates of their enemies.”

And all that’s true! That’s all part of what’s going to take place for Rebekah as part of the Abrahamic covenant.

**v. 61 Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.**

“Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.”

Not a word about the 450-mile trip! That’s totally secondary, immediately removed to the end of the chapter and the bringing of these two together.

**v. 62 Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev.**

“Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev.”—down in the south.

What prompted him to come on that particular day at that time? Once again, it’s another divine appointment, isn’t it? It just happens that this entourage that’s been on the road, probably for two or three months (we don’t know how long it took them to make the trip) and here they are.

**v. 63 He went out to the field one evening to meditate,**

**and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching.**

“He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching.”

In one verse he looks up, and in the next verse she looks up. But notice something, “He went out to the field”—WHAT?—“to meditate.”

It’s absolutely essential to our spiritual health and development to spend quality time, not only reading, but meditating on what we’re reading—and being still before God.

There are so many statements of great men of the past who’ve walked with God with incredible ease and have found such great joy. God expects us, not only to read but to meditate. That’s Psalm 1: “Blessed is a man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful, but his delight is in the law of the Lord. And in his law he meditates day and night.” (ref. Psalm 1:1, 2)

Andrew Murray said:

(God’s Best Secrets: Daily Devotional Meditations by Andrew Murray)

*Man needs to be alone with God.* Without this, God cannot have the opportunity to shine into his heart, to transform his nature by His Divine working, to take possession and to fill

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him with the fullness of God.

Man needs to be alone with God, to yield to the presence and the power of His holiness, of His life and of His love. Christ on earth needed it; He could not live the life of a Son here in the flesh, without at times separating Himself entirely from His surroundings, and being alone with God. How much more must this be indispensable to us! ...

Alone with God—that is the secret of true prayer; of true power in prayer; of real living; face-to-face fellowship with God and of power for service. There is no true, deep conversion, no true, deep holiness, no clothing with the Holy Spirit and with power, no abiding peace or joy, *without being daily alone with God*. “There is no path to holiness, but in being *much and long alone with God*.”

(March 10)

Spurgeon said:

(Morning and Evening by Charles H. Spurgeon)

THERE are times when solitude is better than society, and silence is wiser than speech. We should be better Christians if we were more alone, waiting upon God, and gathering through meditation on His Word spiritual strength for labour in His service.

p. 572

“he looked up”—he was out in the field meditating.

**v. 64 Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got**

## down from her camel

“Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel”—which probably was quite a chore in itself.

And of course, she’s very excited and she asked Eliezer the question:

**v. 65** and asked the servant, “Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?” “He is my master,” the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.

“and asked the servant, ‘Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?’ ‘He is my master,’ the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.”

Our fourth and final QUESTION is here in verse 65:

4. “Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?”

**v. 66** Then the servant told Isaac all he had done.

“Then the servant told Isaac all he had done.”

Now Isaac’s name means “laughter.”

We can almost see him just losing it over hearing about Rebekah watering ten camels and all that she did to accomplish that task.

Seeing the servant probably feels really good inside. He's been faithful and God has used him.

There is a faithfulness that actually results in a sense of peace and wellbeing when we know we've given the best we had to what was before us as the task that we should be accomplishing.

Max Lucado puts it this way:

(Cure for the Common Life: Living in Your Sweet Spot by Max Lucado)

And to have him call you “good.” When he does, it counts! Only he can make bad sinners good. And only he makes the frail, faithful. “Well done, good and faithful.” Not “good and flashy” or “good and famous.” Not even “good and fruitful”—just faithful.

p. 56

Now notice one other thing. This is the biggest lesson of this series of studies. And that is, what happens to a perfect marriage made in heaven when it's neglected.

We're going to see this couple so beautifully wed, but we're going to see it fall apart. And there are reasons for it. We see them selfish and we see them choosing children that proved to be their favorites.

All of that's going to come alive and the chemistry of all of that is the reason for it. It should cause couples to make strong investments in their own marriages, realizing our time is brief and we can't afford to allow these types of things to take place.

**v. 67 Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.**

“Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.”

Everything was settled. The point has been made. The beauty of it all is that the mission has been completed.

There are fifteen lessons that come out of it and a lot of them have to do with the fact that God has providentially spoken, He has led this servant who has been faithful on a mission.

Lesson #1: What an unselfish, sacrificial servant we have seen in Eliezer of Damascus.

Lesson #2: The Lord is in the business of blessing His faithful followers. Abraham's life proves that.

Lesson #3: Abraham's final act as a faithful servant was to get a wife from his family to preserve the purity of the covenant that the Lord had made with him earlier.

Lesson #4: When we are traveling in the center of the will of our Father, He has promised His peace and His presence to be our portion.

Lesson #5: Abraham's servant teaches us the priority of prayer and praise as a part and parcel of our walk with God.

Lesson #6: The servant's witness is "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out" (verse 45).

Lesson #7: "Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24 NIV).

Lesson #8: The servant's testimony of praise is recorded in verse 48: "and I bowed down and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son."

Lesson #9: The testimony of Laban and Bethuel is: "This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other" (verse 50).

Lesson #10: Once again Abraham's servant "bowed down to the ground before the Lord" in worship and praise (verse 52).

Lesson #11: The passionate request of the servant is seen the next morning when he says: "Send me on my way to my

master” (verse 54).

Lesson #12: The servant is much like Jesus who said: “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work” (John 9:4 NKJV). The servant says: “Do not detain me” (verse 56).

Lesson #13: The question to Rebekah from her family is: “Will you go with this man?” And her response is: “I will go” (verse 58).

Lesson #14: Isaac illustrates the words of the psalmist in Psalms 1:2: “But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night” (NIV).

Lesson #15: “Then the servant told Isaac all he had done” (verse 66). And we would respond with the deepest wish of our hearts that we would hear from the Lord of glory ourselves when we reach Him at the end of the journey: “Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joys I have prepared for thee.”

Father, we thank You that there are inspirational stories in scripture that help us understand why Abraham felt so concerned about the continuation of this unconditional covenant that You placed upon his heart to send a servant for 450 miles, from his own family to find a bride for his son Isaac—the miracle boy that was born to he and Sarah as the fulfillment of the first stage of the covenant. The covenant that had passed from Abraham now to his son Isaac. Lord, we

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thank You that from what we've read we're going to see the next stage before this series is over in the birth of twins that will come. And that the next stage will not only be the God of Abraham and Isaac, but also the God of Jacob. Thank You Father that You've been faithful through the generations and that Jesus Christ, Your blessed Son, came as the fulfillment—not only of the Abrahamic covenant, but of the Davidic covenant that promised the kingdom. And that one day soon we're going to see our King and our Savior come, and what a day of rejoicing that will be. Father, may You find us confessing with our lips, even in the hour of Your coming, "I love You, Jesus." We thank You for Him and we thank You for all that You've done in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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## What You Need to Know About ISAAC & JACOB:

“The Lord who leads armies makes this solemn vow: ‘Be sure of this: Just as I have intended so it will be; just as I have planned, it will happen.’” Isaiah 14:24 NET

### Study Number Two – Genesis 24:34-67

### NOTES

v. 34 So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant.

v. 35 The Lord has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, menservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys.

v. 36 My master’s wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns.

v. 37 And my master made me swear an oath, and said, ‘You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live,

v. 38 but go to my father’s family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.’

v. 39 “Then I asked my master, ‘What if the woman will not come back with me?’

v. 40 “He replied, ‘The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and make your journey a success, so that you can get a wife for my son from my own clan and from my father’s family.

v. 41 Then, when you go to my clan, you will be released from my oath even if they refuse to give her to you—you will be released from my oath.’

v. 42 “When I came to the spring today, I said, ‘O Lord, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come.

v. 43 See, I am standing beside this spring; if a maiden comes out to draw water and I say to her, “Please let me drink a little water from your jar,”

## NOTES

v. 44 and if she says to me, “Drink, and I’ll draw water for your camels too,” let her be the one the Lord has chosen for my master’s son.’

v. 45 “Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, ‘Please give me a drink.’

v. 46 “She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too.’ So I drank, and she watered the camels also.

v. 47 “I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ “She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.’ “Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms,

v. 48 and I bowed down and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master’s brother for his son.

v. 49 Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn.”

v. 50 Laban and Bethuel answered, “This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other.

v. 51 Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has directed.”

v. 52 When Abraham’s servant heard what they said, he bowed down to the ground before the Lord.

v. 53 Then the servant brought out gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave costly gifts to her brother and to her mother.

v. 54 Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night there. When they got up the next morning, he said, “Send me on my way to my master.”

v. 55 But her brother and her mother replied, “Let the girl remain with us ten days or so; then you may go.”

v. 56 But he said to them, “Do not detain me, now that the Lord has granted success to my journey. Send me on my way so I may go to my master.”

v. 57 Then they said, “Let’s call the girl and ask her about it.”

v. 58 So they called Rebekah and asked her, “Will you go with this man?” “I will go,” she said.

v. 59 So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham’s servant and his men.

v. 60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies.”

## NOTES

v. 61 Then Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted their camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left.

v. 62 Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev.

v. 63 He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching.

v. 64 Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel

v. 65 and asked the servant, “Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?” “He is my master,” the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.

v. 66 Then the servant told Isaac all he had done.

v. 67 Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

## QUESTIONS:

1. Read Genesis 24:34-67 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

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2. Summarize what the servant says about his master Abraham in verses 35 & 36.

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3. Summarize the servant's mission, according to verse 38.

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4. Summarize the servant's prayer in verses 42-44.

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5. How eager is the Lord to answer the servant's prayer, according to verse 45? Compare with Isaiah 65:24.

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6. How do Laban and Bethuel respond to the servant's message, according to verse 50?

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7. How eager is the servant to return to his master, according to verses 54 & 56?

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8. How does Rebekah respond to the family's question in verse 58?

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9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

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10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

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**LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: What an unselfish, sacrificial servant we have seen in Eliezer of Damascus.

LESSON #2: The Lord is in the business of blessing His faithful followers. Abraham's life proves that.

LESSON #3: Abraham's final act as a faithful servant was to get a wife from his family to preserve the purity of the covenant that the Lord had made with him earlier.

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## ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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