

Isaac and Rebekah

Genesis 24:1-4, 10-66

Sarah had died, and Abraham was now very old. God had blessed him in every way. One day he said to his chief servant, "Go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for Isaac. Make sure that you do not take my son back there, but instead bring the girl here." Then he set out for the place where Abraham's relatives lived. When he arrived near that place he made the camels kneel down near a well outside the town, because it was toward evening, the time when women go out to get water. There he began to pray, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today. See, I am standing beside this spring and the daughters of the townspeople are coming to draw water. May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please give me a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'—let her be the one you have chosen for Isaac." Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder. She was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother. She went down to the spring and filled her water jar and came up again. The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar." "Drink, my lord," she replied, "and I will draw water for your camels until they have finished drinking." Without saying a word, the servant watched her fill the water trough again and again until the camels finished drinking. Then he took out a gold nose ring and two heavy gold bracelets and gave them to her. "Please tell me, whose daughter are you? Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?" Rebekah told him who she was, and that there was room for him to stay the night. The servant bowed low to the ground and worshiped the Lord. "Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has given me success." The girl ran to tell her mother's household about these things. Rebekah had a brother named Laban. When he had seen the gold nose ring and the golden bracelets, he hurried out to meet Abraham's servant, and told him to come home and stay with them. They prepared a meal for Abraham's servant, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told you why I have come," he said. "Then tell us," Laban replied. So the servant explained all that had happened and all that he had prayed. Then he said, "Now, if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; if not, tell me, so I will know which way to turn." Laban and Rebekah's father answered, "This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other. Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed." Then the servant brought out the gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing and gave them to Rebekah. When the morning came, the servant said, "Send me on my way to my master." So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," Rebekah said. Her family sent off with their blessing, "May your offspring greatly increase, and may they possess the gates of their enemies." So Rebekah and her maids got ready and mounted the camels to go with the men. When the servant and Rebekah neared the place where Isaac was living, she looked up and saw Isaac coming. "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" she asked. "He is my master," the servant explained. So she took her veil and covered herself to show respect and that she was not yet married. The servant told Isaac all that had happened. Isaac brought Rebekah into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her. Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

20 years later...

Rebekah is barren, and Isaac prays on her behalf for her to have children. She does—twins!

Later...

Isaac did not trust God to protect him and his wife, so he told the people in the land where they were living that Rebekah was his sister. When the King found out, he asked why Isaac would do such a thing—someone may have taken Rebekah as a wife and placed guilt on themselves. God protected Rebekah, and even blessed Isaac with more wealth and fame.

God had a plan for Isaac to continue Abraham's line and to continue in Isaac the promise he had given Abraham. He brought Isaac exactly the "right" wife through divine circumstances. But the enemy certainly didn't want plans to work out! Rebekah was barren. God healed that, but then Rebekah was almost taken by another man as his wife! Then the twins Rebekah had fought with each other and deception and trickery entered the house, with Rebekah playing a part. Some of these issues were brought on by Isaac and Rebekah themselves, and some were probably an attempt by an angry enemy to thwart God's plans.

1. Despite the struggles Rebekah and Isaac had, what do we know for certain about their marriage?
2. What do we see about Rebekah's character in this story?
3. How does their marriage bless and help Isaac?
4. Write or tell each other the story of how you got together. Emphasize the things that made you know that this was definitely God who did it! Like Rebekah, you agreed to this. Recommit yourself to that commitment.
5. What are your character qualities that are helpful in your marriage? When you first met your husband and were seriously dating, what things did you say to yourself that you would be and do for him? Are you still being and doing those things?
6. Maybe your husband didn't give you a lot of gold jewelry. Maybe he didn't have to pray for you to have children, but what are his character qualities that are helpful in your marriage? What were the things about him that you loved? Write them down.
7. It's possible that some mistakes have been made along the way, like Isaac made.
☺ How has God protected you through those rough times? How has God protected your marriage? How has God been there for you? Write down the ways God has been faithful to you in your marriage.