

Women of the Bible

Lesson Three: Rebekah

When Abraham left Haran to go to the land of Canaan, his brother Nahor remained in Mesopotamia. Nahor's wife, Milcah bore eight children unto him, one of whom was named Bethuel – the father of Rebekah.



Introduction. When Isaac was grown, and Abraham was old, he made his oldest servant swear to him that he would not take a wife for Isaac from among the Canaanite women. Instead he sent him to Mesopotamia, to his brother Nahor's people, assuring him that the Lord would provide a wife for Isaac there (Genesis 24:2-9). This wife would be Rebekah.

I. Rebekah's willingness to follow where the Lord led her.

- A. Upon the arrival of Abraham's servant in Mesopotamia, he prays that God would reveal to him the woman who should be Isaac's wife (Genesis 24:10-14).
 - 1. Before he finished praying, Rebekah came to him and does just as he had prayed that she would do (Genesis 24:15-21).
 - 2. When Rebekah revealed her family to him, the servant knew that God had answered his prayer (Genesis 24:22-28).
- B. When Abraham's servant came into Rebekah's house he told her family his purpose (Genesis 24:32-41).
 - 1. He also tells them how God had brought Rebekah to him (Genesis 24:42-49).
 - 2. Bethuel and Laban (Rebekah's father and brother), recognizing God's hand in this matter, agree to let Rebekah go to Isaac (Genesis 24:50-56).
- C. Rebekah is asked whether she will go immediately with Abraham's servant and become Isaac's wife, or not. She agrees to go. (Genesis 24:57-58).
 - 1. Given that marriages were generally arranged by a woman's parents (or father), the fact that she agrees to go when given a choice, reveals her willingness to follow where the Lord would lead her.
 - 2. Rebekah's family blesses her (Genesis 24:59-60). Such blessings were often predictive and prophetic in nature, revealing how God would bless the one upon whom the blessing was bestowed.
- D. Rebekah goes to Isaac and becomes his wife (Genesis 24:61-67).

II. The Lord's promise to Rebekah regarding her children.

- A. Rebekah, like Sarah was barren (Genesis 25:20-21a).
 - 1. Isaac prayed to God and Rebekah conceived (Genesis 25:21b).

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- B. As her conception progressed, the children “struggled” within her (Genesis 25:22a).
 - 1. She prayed to the Lord about the matter (Genesis 25:22b). This reveals that Rebekah was a woman who not only trusted in the God, but saw Him as the source of answers to life’s problems (cf. Philippians 4:6-7).
 - 2. God revealed to her that all was well with her conception, and that she would have two children, who would grow into “two nations,” yet, “the older shall serve the younger” (Genesis 25:23). This was an important revelation which may explain Rebekah’s behavior towards Jacob (the younger), in the future.
- C. Rebekah gave birth to twins, Esau (who was born first) and Jacob who came out holding the heel of Esau (Genesis 25:24-28).

III. The blessing of Jacob and protection from Esau.

- A. When Isaac was old and his eyesight was diminished he instructed Esau to bring him a meal of wild game in order to bless him (Genesis 27:1-4).
 - 1. Overhearing Isaac’s plans, Rebekah instructs Jacob and helps him pretend to be Esau in order to receive the blessing rather than Esau (Genesis 27:5-17).
 - 2. While this may have come simply from favoritism, this may have been her attempt to honor what God had promised regarding them (see Genesis 25:23).
- B. When Esau learns of the deception, Rebekah warns Jacob to flee to her brother in Haran (Genesis 27:41-45).
- C. Rebekah also goes to Isaac, and like Abraham had done for Isaac, requests that Jacob not be given a wife from the Canaanites (Genesis 27:46).
 - 1. Isaac blesses Jacob and sends him to Mesopotamia (Genesis 28:1-5).



Modern Mesopotamian
Village of Haran

Conclusion. Rebekah demonstrated a trust in God which led her to leave her home and go to a different land to become the wife of Isaac. She looked to the Lord in her time of trial and trusted His promises regarding her children. This trust in God’s promise regarding Jacob, may well have led her to take steps necessary to assure his security and blessing from God. She was a great woman of faith, through whom God would further the lineage of Abraham, leading ultimately to the birth of Jesus.

