

Lesson: The Promise Continues (Gen 23-25:19)

After God’s reaffirmation of his promise and plan to provide life for the world through Abraham, we see the fulfillment of that promise was not without further challenges. Sarah died. And as Abraham aged, in order for Isaac to continue the line of promise, he needed a wife. Abraham charged his servant with the obligation of going to his kindred and home country to find a suitable mate for Isaac. The servant was successful, having found Rebekah who would become Isaac’s wife and the mother of the man whose name would be called Israel. Though the promise of God may be confronted with obstacles, God always finds a way to bring his promise to pass.

Biblical Takeaways

1. ***The Death of Sarah (Gen 23)***: This chapter covers the end of Sarah’s life. It informs us of the place where she was buried as well. This will be the same place where Abraham himself will be buried in chapter 25.
2. ***Preparations for the Promise (Gen 24:1-9)***
 - a. Isaac had to have a wife of Shemite origin. But Isaac, himself, was not to return to Abraham’s country or origin.
 - b. God knows how to work things out in both the short-term and the long-term. The servant was concerned about the willingness of Isaac’s bride-to-be to return with him, even if she were found. But Abraham’s response teaches us God has prepared the way for his promise. The angel of the Lord went in front of them. God had already made the journey successful before the servant ever took a step. This is because God already promised Abraham a future.
3. ***Prayer following the Promise (Gen 24:10-49)***
 - a. When the servant went to Abraham’s home country, he prayed for the girl to offer signs of confirmation. When he asked her for water, he wanted her to also be willing, without being asked, to water the camels. Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel, Abraham’s nephew, did exactly what the servant prayed for. This teaches us that prayers in line with God’s promises will find fulfillment. She not only met those requests but she was pretty, too. In other words, when we follow the promises of God in prayer, God will always exceed our prayers.
 - b. In v. 45, when rehearsing the story of his meeting Rebekah, the servant explained that as soon as he had finished praying God answered. No matter how long it may take, God will answer our prayers that follow his promises. But we must believe.
4. ***Loving God’s Will (Gen 24:50-67)***: When the servant saw God fulfill his promise (v. 48, 52), he bowed himself before God to worship. He handed over dowry items to take Rebekah with him. And when Rebekah returned, when Isaac saw her, he instantly loved her. He loved God’s will for his life. We should do the same. We often snub the signs of God’s love for us and evidence of God’s desire to fulfill his promises. We must be careful to recognize when God has done something to love the will of God for us.
5. ***The Death of Abraham (Gen 25)***: This chapter offers us helpful information about how Abraham had another wife, other concubines, other children, and how his house continued outside of the promised seed. When Abraham died, Isaac and Ishmael buried him with Sarah.