

## Topic: Rebekah

### Reading Outline

- Read Genesis 24; 25:19-28; 26:6-35; 27; Romans 9:6-16.
- Focus on the person of Rebekah, the nature of her different relationships, as well as the “big picture” themes.
- Have fun and see how learning more about Rebekah can edify and teach us women regarding the unity of the faith.
- As you go through the study outline, remember, these questions are purposefully open-ended with the intent to generate dialogue. See where the Spirit leads you in Scripture, and come prepared to share.

### Scripture References

- Genesis 24; 25:19-28; 26:6-35; 27; Romans 9:6-16

### Background

- Rebekah is first mentioned in the genealogy of the descendants of Nahor, Abraham’s brother (Gen 22:20-24).
- Rebekah becomes Isaac’s wife (Gen 24:5-67).
- Rebekah is the mother of Esau and Jacob (Gen 25:21-28).
- Rebekah encourages Jacob to deceive Isaac and then to flee (Gen 27:1-29, 42-46).

### Genesis Chapter 24

- **V 24:2-8** – What is the significance of Abraham finding a wife for his son Isaac from his own country and not from among the Canaanites (Gen 17:7-8, Gen 18:17-19 cf Gal 3:8-9)?
- **V 24:2-8 cont’d** - What can be said about God’s faithfulness and purpose in the lives of those He has chosen (1Co 1:9, Eph 1:1-14, 1Th 5:24, 2Ti 1:9)?
- **V24:12-14** – What is revealed about the heart of Abraham’s servant? How does his authority orientation to The Lord aid Rebekah’s decision to go with him and marry Isaac (Gen 24:58, Psa 146:3-6)? What role does prayer play in this specific account? How does prayer and dependence on Christ direct our paths? What happens when our eyes drift off of His purpose (Pro 3:6, Mat 14:22-33, Joh 15:16; 16:26, Rom 8:28)?

- **V24:15-17** – In these verses, we are introduced to Rebekah and learn that she is of Abraham’s lineage. She is described as beautiful and a virgin. What is the significance of these details being recorded? What are the blessings that come with virginity (Rom 12:1-21, 1Th 4:3-8)? What does the Bible say about beauty (Psa 19:1, Sos 7:1, Eph 2:10, 1Pe 3:3-5)?
- **V24:15-17 cont’d** - What are the similarities and the differences between God’s selection of a bride for Isaac and God’s selection of the Church as the Bride for Christ (Jer 31:3, Joh 6:39-46, Eph 5:27)?
- **V24:18** – What does Rebekah’s statement, “drink, my lord”, demonstrate about her character? What is the role of servanthood in the Spiritual life (Jos 22:5, Joh 12:26, Rom 12:1, Gal 5:13, 1Pe 1:12)?
- **V24:20** – What is the significance of Rebekah going back and drawing water for the camels, too? How might we apply this to our daily lives (Mat 5:38-42, Luk 17:10, Gal 6:7-9)?
- **V24:24-25** – How would you describe Rebekah’s level of confidence in her interactions with Abraham’s servant? To what would you attribute her composure/confidence? What is the role of the gifts and the gold jewelry given to Rebekah?
- **V24:26-27** – What must it have been like for Rebekah to see this man praising the Lord in this moment- specifically the “God of my master, Abraham”? Have you ever been made aware of a time when you were the answer to someone’s specific prayers? How does this encourage you and others in the Body of Christ? What are the key ingredients for such awareness? What kind of comfort do we experience when we meet someone who worships our same Lord, Jesus Christ?
- **V24:28-31** – Rebekah runs to her family to tell them about “these things.” What does Scripture reveal about the nature of what she shares with her family? How would you describe Rebekah and her family’s reverence for the Blesser vs. the actual blessings in this exchange?
- **V24:46** – What is the significance of Rebekah “quickly” responding to the servant’s request for a drink? What does the Bible have to say about the timeliness of responding when prompted by the Spirit (Psa 119: 59-61, Rom 12:11, Col 3:23)?
- **V24:52-53** – Whom are the gifts mentioned in this verse ultimately honoring? What do you think the experience of being a vessel of the Lord was like for Rebekah, her family, and for Abraham’s servant? What else does the Bible have to say about being His vessel (Luk 8:16, Joh 15:1-27, 1Co 6:19-20, 2Ti 2:21)?
- **V24:55-58** – How can we relate to Rebekah’s mother and brother’s request to be with her for 10 more days? What is the nature of Rebekah’s obedience and faith in this moment? What things can get in the way of our own expediency to obedience after being prompted by The Spirit?

- **V24:59-61** – What is the nature of Rebekah’s send-off? What is the role of the blessing given by Rebekah’s family? How does prayer and blessing of this sort honor God and encourage both parties (the one being called in a certain direction in their Spiritual walk and their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ)?
- **V24:65** – Upon identifying Isaac, Rebekah immediately covers herself with her veil. What is the significance of this custom (1Co 11:2-6)?
- **V24:67** – Isaac is comforted by Rebekah. What does Scripture say about women’s role as “helper”? How might we apply this to being Christ’s bride (Gen 2:18, Pro 31)?

### Genesis Chapter 25:19-28

- **V25:19-20** – What is the significance of Isaac’s genealogy being recorded (Gen 15:5-7)? What is the significance behind names in the Bible (Gen 17:5; 21:6)?
- **V25:21** – We see Isaac turning to prayer after 20 years of Rebekah’s barrenness (cf Gen 25:26). What is the significance of this verse? How can we compare this to Abraham and Sarah (Gen 17:15-19)? God often operates in the realm of what seems impossible to man. What kind of impact does this have on His children (Jdg 7:2, Jer 29:8-14, Luk 18:27)?
- **V25:22** – In this verse we see Rebekah turn to God in her discomfort during pregnancy. How does God use discomfort to help turn us to Him? There are numerous examples recorded of this in the Bible, what are some that come to mind (Act 9:3-6, Jon 1:8-10)? What are some examples in the Bible of how God receives His children when they turn to Him (Luk 11:9-11; 15:11-31)?
- **V25:23** – God answers Rebekah’s inquiry “why then am I this way?” How might Rebekah’s circumstance and God’s answer remind us of how He defines a blessing vs. how the world defines blessing (Deu 30:16, Pro 16:20, Jer 17:7-8, Phi 1:21; 4:11-13, 19)?
- **V25:23 cont’d** – The Lord lets Rebekah know that she will be having two very different children, one stronger than the other, and the older serving the younger. What does this verse say about God’s sovereignty (Cf Rom 9:10-14)? How does this verse also reinforce personhood in the womb (Psa 139:13-14, Isa 49:5, Jer 1:5, Gal 1:15)?
- **V25:28** – Here we read of clear differences between Esau and Jacob and parental favoritism. What does God’s Word have to say about partiality (Deu 1:16-17, Pro 28:21, Jam 3:17)? How does partiality blind us from His purpose?

### Gen 26:1-35

- **V26:1-5** – What are the different unconditional blessings the Lord promises Isaac? What are promises God has given to all believers in Christ as their Lord and Savior (Deu 31:8, Isa 40:31, Joh 14:13-16, Phi 4:19, Jam 1:5; 4:7)?
- **V26:6-7** – Isaac falls into the same pattern as his father, Abraham (Gen 12:11-14). What does this juxtaposition of obedience and deceit reveal about the flesh of man? What is Rebekah's response to her husband's introduction of her as his sister? How does God's Spirit guide those under authority in the realm of marriage (or other relationships i.e work, church) (Rom 7:15-20; 13:1-5, 1Pe 2:13-25; 3:1-6)?
- **V26: 8-9** – What can be said about God's timing as it relates to Abimelech looking out the window and seeing Rebekah with Isaac? Contrast this to God's intervention with Abimelech and Sarai in Gen 20:3. What are the many ways God intervenes in our lives (2Ki 6:17, Psa 23:3, Pro 20:12, Eph 1:16-21)?
- **V26: 10-11** – We read of Abimelech, a pagan king, imposing the death penalty on anyone who touches either Isaac or Rebekah. What does this say about who or what can be used by God to accomplish His work (Isa 10:5, Hab 1:5-11, Rom 8:28)?
- **V26: 12-21** – Rebekah is alongside Isaac as they go through prosperity and blessings but also must endure the challenges when being envied by the Philistines and facing territorial conflict. It is not until the 3<sup>rd</sup> well is dug that there are no quarrels. We don't know how much time passes between moving to the Gerar valley and the digging of the 3 wells, but we certainly see time and effort expended. What might this have been like for Rebekah? How can we relate to this?
- **V26: - 24-25** – What does God's reaffirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant accomplish here? How can we be encouraged by this (Deu 31:6, Psa 27:1; 46:1; 55:22, Isa 41:13-14, Luk 12:22-26)?
- **V26:28** – Abimelech states that he understands that the Lord is the source of Isaac's blessings. How do we see Isaac and Rebekah's obedience impact their ability to witness on behalf of the Lord? How might we be encouraged by this (Deu 28:1-14, Mat 6:33)?
- **V26: 32-33** – We read that Isaac's servants dig a well and find water on the same day that Isaac makes a covenant with Abimelech. What is significant about this (Deu 29:9, Psa 37:11; 68:6)?
- **V26: 34-35** – Esau brings grief upon Isaac and Rebekah. Why are they saddened? How does this account reinforce the truth of the need to keep our focus on Christ and not on people (Psa 1:1-6, Rom 8:5, Phi 4:8)?

