

The Guide of Our Journey

Genesis 24:1-10

Genesis 24 tells the story of the finding of a bride for Isaac. It is the longest chapter in the book of Genesis. It is also the first love story in the Bible. This passage reveals some basic principles of God's guidance that apply to all the situations of life. The story unfolds in four scenes.

Scene #1: Abraham's Commission

Genesis 24:1 says that Abraham was "old and well advanced in years." As he comes to his last days, he reflects upon the promises of God, how God had promised him long before that he would have a son. God had given him Isaac. Now Sarah is dead, and Abraham will soon join her. God had promised to bring forth a great nation through Abraham, and from that great nation he would bless the whole earth (Genesis 12:1-3).

Scene #2: The Servant's Commitment

So the servant set out on the long journey from Hebron to Nahor. We are told in verse 10 that the servant took ten of his master's camels and left. Eventually he arrived on the outskirts of Nahor in the evening just about the time the women of the village would come out to the well to get water for the camels. He stops and asks God to give him specific guidance (v.12-14).

Scene #3: Rebekah's Choice

Genesis 24:28-49 tells how Rebekah introduced the servant to her brother Laban and her father Bethuel. In typical Middle Eastern fashion, they all gathered for a great evening meal. But before the meal was served, the servant stood up and made a speech. Every sentence revealed his great faith in the God who had led him to Rebekah.

Scene #4: Isaac's Comfort

Understandably, her family didn't want her to leave immediately. There was a bit of a disagreement so they decided to let Rebekah decide for herself. "Then they said, 'Let's call the girl and ask her about it.' So they called Rebekah and asked her, 'Will you go with this man?'" (Genesis 24:57-58). Rebekah agrees and they make the long journey back to Hebron. When they arrived, Isaac was walking in the fields. The story ends with these touching words: "So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death" (Genesis 24:67).

Three Lessons Regarding Guidance

1. God's will involves forethought, planning, preparation and prayer.
2. Focus on the Lord and leave the details in His hands.
3. Since God is in control you can relax.