



Rebekah

“In the Beginning”

“Behold, Rebekah is before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken.” Genesis 24:51

Rebekah was the wife of Isaac, but it was not a romantic “first love” as we usually think. After Sarah died, Abraham was concerned that Isaac marry the right woman.

He said to his servant “You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, but you shall go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac” (Gen. 24:3, 4).

So God sent a servant to get a bride for Isaac. The servant went loaded down with gifts to seek the perfect wife for Isaac! But the servant was worried. As he neared the land he prayed that God would lead him to the right woman. He asked God to lead the right one to him and then, he wanted to have her offer to help water the camels also! He seemed to be asking for a lot, but he was in a tough situation!

The words were barely out of his mouth when Rebekah came out with a water jug on her shoulder. She was beautiful, and she offered to hold the jug while he drank and offered to get water for his camels also. God had answered his prayer.

When the camels had finished drinking, the man gave Rebekah the gifts. Then he asked if she could help him with lodging for the night. She answered that there was plenty of room for him and food and lodging for his animals. We can see that God is the matchmaker in this situation.

He went to the house and told them his story. When the members of the household discussed the situation and asked Rebekah for her response. She said she was ready to go. So the servant, Rebekah, and her nurse left with her family’s blessing to join Isaac. The servant gave Rebekah a nose ring (Genesis 24:47). According to the culture of the day, that was a sign of the servant’s intention to do right by his master, and her acceptance showed her confirmation of the offer of marriage.

When they return they found Isaac meditating in the field. Rebekah dismounted the camel and covered herself with a veil as was the custom. After he had heard all the exciting details of the trip and knew the guidance of God that had found him a bride, we read in Gen. 24:67 “Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death”.

They had many barren years, when Rebekah did conceive. She asked God for answers and God spoke to her “Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples shall be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger” (Gen. 25:23). Rebekah bore twins, Esau and Jacob, to Isaac. It was a difficult pregnancy for her, and she asked God why she was having so much trouble. Isaac favored Esau, but Rebekah favored Jacob. The life of Isaac and Rebekah had its problems. She was very beautiful.

Incidentally Isaac showed the same weakness that was in his father Abraham. He too cowardly lied about the true identity of his wife. Once, Isaac said she was his sister because he feared the Philistines, but he got caught and explained that he was afraid for them. The king protected them and threatened anyone who would harm either one of them.

Rebekah helped her favorite, Jacob, to get the family blessing over Esau who was the elder through disguising Jacob. Soon, Jacob had to leave because Esau was upset with him. Jacob was sent to live with Rebekah’s brother, Laban. Jacob married from the land that his mother and father requested, but Rebekah never saw him again. Actually, God had also guided this according to many authorities because Jacob married the right person to carry on God’s plan. Esau married a woman that did not meet with the family approval.

Eventually Jacob, his family, and the flocks returned home. Jacob and Esau met and reconciled in love. Later, Jacob was renamed Israel by God and he became the ancestor of Christ, and the leader of many nations. When Isaac and Rebekah died, they were buried with Abraham and Sarah.

Prayer: Lord, You are an awesome God and Savior. Before we can do anything, we know that You know us and are always there to help us. When we fall, You pick us up. Thank You for Your guidance as we seek to do Your will here on this earth. Amen

1. Why did Abraham want to arrange a good marriage for Isaac?
2. Is it important that we marry the right person? What steps should we take to try to marry the right person?
3. Rebekah was willing to go and marry Isaac. Can we expect God to guide us in marriage?
4. Should we help our children to find the correct mate? How?
5. Is it wrong to have favorites among your children? What are some of the problems? What situations sometimes make one child favored over another?

Rebekah: Rebekah is introduced in Genesis 24:15 when she speaks to the stranger and offers him water. Her life with Isaac continues through the book of Genesis to chapter 27 with just a couple references to her after that chapter.

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