**Isaac and Rebekah**

**A Bible Story From**

**Genesis 24:1-67**

**Bible Story Number: 1010270**

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**Isaac and Rebekah**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

God told Abram to leave his country and go to the place God would show him, and he obeyed.

God made a profound promise to Abram (called a covenant):

I will bless you and make you the father of a great nation.

I will make you famous throughout history.

I will protect your allies and punish your enemies.

I will bless the entire world through your descendants.

Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born. Sarah died at 127 years of age (Gen. 23), and Abraham purchased property in Canaan as a burial place for her.

**Story from the Bible**

**Genesis 24:1-67**

This is what the Bible says.

Abraham was advanced in years and God had blessed him just as He had promised. Abraham remembered God’s promise to make him the father of a great nation, with many descendents. He also remembered God’s promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham’s offspring. Abraham wanted his son Isaac to marry a woman from his clan back home and not to marry a woman from Canaan where they were living.

Abraham summoned his chief servant and had him swear an oath that he would go back to the country that Abraham had come from and get a wife for Isaac from among Abraham’s relatives. The servant was instructed not to get a wife for this son Isaac from the Canaanites where he was living. He told his servant that God would send his angel before him so that he could get a wife for Isaac there in his native country. Abraham also said to his servant, “If the woman is unwilling to follow you, then you are free from this oath.”

The servant took ten of Abraham’s camels loaded with many valuable gifts and traveled to the town of Nahor. He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town. It was late in the day, the time when the women would be coming to the well to draw water.

The servant prayed and asked God to give him success and to show kindness to his master Abraham. He prayed that God would show him the woman that He had chosen for Isaac and that God would give him a specific sign to identify her. He prayed that when he asked the girl for a drink of water, she would give him a drink and offer to water his camels also.

Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out to draw water. She was the granddaughter of Abraham’s brother. The servant asked her for a drink, and she lowered her jar from her shoulder and gave him a drink. She then said that she would water his camels also, and she did. The servant watched carefully to see if God had answered his prayer.

When she had watered the camels, Abraham’s servant took out a gold nose ring and two gold bracelets and gave them to her. He asked her, “Whose daughter are you? Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

Rebekah told him that she was the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor. She said that they had plenty of straw and fodder and there was room for them to spend the night.

Abraham’s servant bowed down and worshiped God. He praised God for His kindness and faithfulness to his master Abraham. He thanked God for answering his prayer, for leading him to the house of his master’s relatives and for identifying the girl God had chosen in the specific way he had asked.

Rebekah hurried back home and told her family what had happened. When her brother Laban saw the gold nose ring and the two gold bracelets and heard what had happened, he went out to meet the man. Laban invited Abraham’s servant to the house and he accepted.

When they arrived at the house, they unloaded the camels and provided water for Abraham’s servant and the men that were with him. They prepared a meal and invited them to eat.

Abraham’s servant said he would not eat before he told them why he had come. He told them about Abraham and how God had blessed him and had made him very wealthy. He told about Sarah and that she had bore Abraham a son in her old age and that this son was Abraham’s only heir.

The servant explained that Abraham made him swear an oath not to get a wife for his son from the daughters of the Canaanites, but to get a wife from his own clan. He

explained that Abraham had agreed that if the woman would not come back with him, he would be released from the oath.

The servant explained how he had prayed for a sign by the well and how even before he had finished praying in his heart, he saw Rebekah coming out to draw water. He explained that she had done exactly what he had asked would be the sign.

The servant asked them if they would “show kindness and faithfulness” to his master (Abraham). He was asking for an arranged marriage. He asked for an immediate answer.

Laban and Bethuel answered that this was clearly from God. They agreed that he could take Rebekah back to be married to Isaac.

When Abraham’s servant heard their response, he bowed down to the ground and praised God. He then gave gold and silver jewelry and articles of clothing to Rebekah. He also gave expensive gifts to her brother and her mother. Then they ate the meal that was prepared for them.

The next morning, Abraham’s servant got up and asked them to send him back to his master. Rebekah’s family asked that she be allowed to stay for ten days or so before they left. Abraham’s servant asked that they be allowed to go immediately. They asked Rebekah what she wanted to do and she agreed to go right away. So they spoke a blessing over her and Rebekah and her nurse went with them.

They returned, and Isaac and Rebekah were married.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What instructions did Abraham give his servant concerning a wife for Isaac?
* What sign did the servant ask of God to identify the woman God had selected for Isaac?
* What did Abraham’s servant tell Rebekah’s family about his master?
* How did Laban and Bethuel respond to Abraham’s servant’s request?
* Was the marriage between Isaac and Rebekah an arranged marriage?
* What gifts did Abraham’s servant give? To whom?
* What request did Abraham’s servant make after Rebekah’s family agreed to the marriage?
* Who made the final decision about leaving immediately?
* What did you like about this story?
* What did you not like about this story?
* What did you learn about God from this story?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.