

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS  
GENESIS 23 - SARAH'S DEATH, GENESIS 24 - ISAAC'S MARRIAGE TO  
REBEKAH

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the great story of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac and now we add Rebekah, Isaac's wife.

Say - Verses 1-2 below is of the death of Sarah. Verses 3-18 are below Abraham's treaty for the burying place.

**Genesis 23**

<sup>1</sup>And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah (Sarah is the only woman in the Bible whose age, death and burial are mentioned and probably because she was the "mother of a multitude".).

<sup>2</sup>And Sarah died in Kirjatharba (formerly Hebron); the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her (They mourned 7 days).

Say - Verses 3-20 are of Abraham purchasing a burial place for Sarah.

<sup>3</sup>And Abraham stood up from before his dead (meaning laying over the face of his dead), and spake unto the sons of Heth (means "terror" and is a forefather of the Hetites), saying, <sup>4</sup>I am a stranger and a sojourner (living out of his own country)with you: give me a possession of a buryingplace with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.

<sup>5</sup>And the children of Heth answered Abraham, saying unto him, <sup>6</sup>Hear us, my lord: thou art a mighty prince among us: in the choice of our sepulchres bury thy dead; none of us shall withhold from thee his sepulchre, but that thou mayest bury thy dead (Abraham was well liked in the land even though he was a stranger because he lived the way of God and was helpful to other people.).

<sup>7</sup>And Abraham stood up, and bowed himself to the people of the land, even to the children of Heth. <sup>8</sup>And he communed with them, saying, If it be your mind that I should bury my dead out of my sight; hear me, and intreat for me to Ephron (the one from whom Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah for Sarah's burial place, see verse 9 below.) the son of Zohar (father of Ephron the Hitite),

<sup>9</sup>That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he hath, which is in the end of his field; for as much money as it is worth he shall give it me for a possession of a buryingplace amongst you.

<sup>10</sup>And Ephron dwelt among the children of Heth: and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the audience of the children of Heth, even of all that went in at the gate of

his city, saying, <sup>11</sup>Nay, my lord, hear me: the field give I thee, and the cave that is therein, I give it thee; in the presence of the sons of my people give I it thee: bury thy dead. <sup>12</sup>And Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land.

<sup>13</sup>And he spake unto Ephron in the audience of the people of the land, saying, But if thou wilt give it, I pray thee, hear me: I will give thee money for the field; take it of me, and I will bury my dead there.

<sup>14</sup>And Ephron answered Abraham, saying unto him, <sup>15</sup>My lord, hearken unto me: the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver; what is that betwixt me and thee? bury therefore thy dead.

<sup>16</sup>And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver (about \$1000), which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant.

<sup>17</sup>And the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field, and the cave which was therein, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in all the borders round about, were made sure (signed a document). <sup>18</sup>Unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city.

Say - Verse 19 below is the burial of Sarah.

<sup>19</sup>And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan (this is the only land Abraham owned). <sup>20</sup>And the field, and the cave that is therein, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession of a buryingplace by the sons of Heth.

## **Genesis 24**

Say - Verses 1-24 below is the history of Abraham plus 1-67 is the marriage of Isaac.

<sup>1</sup>And Abraham was old (about 140 years old), and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things (just as God had promised).

<sup>2</sup>And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house (Eleazar of Damascus), that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh (was a sign of subjection):

<sup>3</sup>And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: (the marriage is arranged by the parents and they marry among their own tribe. Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a Canaanite because Isaac could have been led away from the true God plus it was the Law of God and Abraham wanted to make sure Isaac obeyed God. Here is what God's Law says about marrying someone not of the same religion and it is the law to follow today, "<sup>2</sup>And when the LORD

thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: <sup>3</sup>Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. (Why did God say this?) <sup>4</sup>For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly" Deuteronomy 7:2-4).

<sup>4</sup>But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac. <sup>5</sup>And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest? <sup>6</sup>And Abraham said unto him, Beware (take heed) thou that thou bring not my son thither again (go back to Ur/Babylon).

<sup>7</sup>The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence (Abraham is saying God is the one who chooses who will be in His family and still does.).

<sup>8</sup>And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again (go back to my country). <sup>9</sup>And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter.

Say - Verses 10-67 are about the journey of Eleazar to find a wife for Isaac.

<sup>10</sup>And the servant (Eleazar) took ten camels of the camels of his master (to bear the marriage presents or dowry and in case something should happen to one he would have enough), and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor (Nahor was Abraham's brother and he had a city named after him).

<sup>11</sup>And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water (Anyone wishing to obtain information about the town or its people came to the well for there the women gathered morning and evening and Eleazar did this at the time of evening water draw and to let his camels rest).

Say - Verses 12-14 are of the prayer of Abraham's servant, Eleazar.

<sup>12</sup>And he said O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham (Eleazar knows God will direct him). <sup>13</sup>Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water: <sup>14</sup>And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

Say - Verses 15-24 describe Rebekah.

<sup>15</sup>And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.

<sup>16</sup>And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin (totally pure), neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.

<sup>17</sup>And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. <sup>18</sup>And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.

<sup>19</sup>And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. <sup>20</sup>And she hasted, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

<sup>21</sup>And the man wondering (eagerly watching her) at her held his peace, to wit whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

<sup>22</sup>And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold; <sup>23</sup>And said, Whose daughter art thou? tell me, I pray thee: is there room in thy father's house for us to lodge in?

<sup>24</sup>And she said unto him, I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, which she bare unto Nahor. <sup>25</sup>She said moreover unto him, We have both straw and provender enough, and room to lodge in (shows the hospitality of her family).

<sup>26</sup>And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the LORD. <sup>27</sup>And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren. <sup>28</sup>And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things (Nahor is either very old or dead).

<sup>29</sup>And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.

<sup>30</sup>And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.

<sup>31</sup>And he said, Come in, thou blessed of the LORD; wherefore standest thou without? for I have prepared the house, and room for the camels.

<sup>32</sup>And the man came into the house: and he ungirded his camels, and gave straw and provender for the camels, and water to wash his feet, and the men's feet that were with him.

<sup>33</sup>And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, I will not eat, until I have told mine errand. And he said, Speak on.

<sup>34</sup>And he said, I am Abraham's servant (they still do not know his name and now Eleazar begins to tell the entire story to Rebekah's family). <sup>35</sup>And the LORD hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses.

<sup>36</sup>And Sarah my master's wife bare a son to my master when she was old: and unto him hath he given all that he hath. <sup>37</sup>And my master made me swear, saying, Thou shalt not take a wife to my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell: <sup>38</sup>But thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.

<sup>39</sup>And I said unto my master, Peradventure the woman will not follow me. <sup>40</sup>And he said unto me, The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house:

<sup>41</sup>Then shalt thou be clear from this my oath, when thou comest to my kindred; and if they give not thee one, thou shalt be clear from my oath. <sup>42</sup>And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go:

<sup>43</sup>Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink; <sup>44</sup>And she say to me, Both drink thou, and I will also draw for thy camels: let the same be the woman whom the LORD hath appointed out for my master's son.

<sup>45</sup>And before I had done speaking in mine heart, behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

<sup>46</sup>And she made haste, and let down her pitcher from her shoulder, and said, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: so I drank, and she made the camels drink also.

<sup>47</sup>And I asked her, and said, Whose daughter art thou? And she said, the daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bare unto him: and I put the earring upon her face, and the bracelets upon her hands. <sup>48</sup>And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

<sup>49</sup>And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left (Let's settle the matter before I leave). <sup>50</sup>Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good (Let the will of God be done).

<sup>51</sup>Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken (Laban regards Jehovah as arranging all things). <sup>52</sup>And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

<sup>53</sup>And the servant (Eleazar) brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah (Her gift from Isaac or dowry and he is bound by the law of marriage): he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things (A thank you gift for the work of their daughter).

Say - Verses 54-67 is Eleazar's mission and return. Now Rebekah was betrothed and accompanied Eleazar back to Canaan.

<sup>54</sup>And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master. <sup>55</sup>And her brother and her mother said, Let the damsel abide with us a few days, at the least ten; after that she shall go.

<sup>56</sup>And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master. <sup>57</sup>And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth. <sup>58</sup>And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go (obedient to God).

<sup>59</sup>And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men. <sup>60</sup>And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them. <sup>61</sup>And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

<sup>62</sup>And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi (the well of life and vision); for he dwelt in the south country. <sup>63</sup>And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide (evening prayer time): and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming. <sup>64</sup>And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel. <sup>65</sup>For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself (The veil is an essential part of the female dress and is drawn over the face until marriage).

<sup>66</sup>And the servant (Eleazar) told Isaac all things that he had done. <sup>67</sup>And Isaac (40 years old, Genesis 25:20) brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife (the sexual part and Rebekah becomes Isaac's wife); and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death (When Isaac saw his wife he "loved her" and Rebekah is in essence replacing the loss of Isaac's mother, Sarah).

#### MEMORY VERSE

And Isaac (37 years old) brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her.

GENESIS 24:67

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS BELOW

## ISAAC'S MARRIAGE TO REBEKAH

ISAAC'S DAD, ABRAHAM, WAS OLD IN FACT HE WAS 140 YEARS OLD AND GOD HAD BLESSED HIM IN MANY WAYS. NOW IT WAS TIME FOR ISAAC TO FIND A WIFE SO ABRAHAM SAID TO HIS SERVANT ELEAZAR, "SWEAR TO ME BY THE GOD OF HEAVEN THAT ISAAC WILL NOT MARRY A CANAANITE WOMAN FOR THIS COULD PULL HIM AWAY FROM SERVING THE TRUE GOD". ELEAZAR WAS A GOOD SERVANT AND AGREED WITH ALL ABRAHAM HAD SAID.

ABRAHAM TOLD ELEAZAR, HIS TRUSTED SERVANT, GOD WILL CHOOSE WHO ISAAC'S WIFE WILL BE. GOD WILL SEND AN ANGEL BEFORE YOU AND LEAD YOU TO ISAAC'S WIFE.

SO ELEAZAR TOOK TEN CAMELS OF ABRAHAM'S AND PLACED MANY BRIDLE GIFTS UPON THEM AND HE DEPARTED FOR THE CITY OF NAHOR. ABRAHAM'S BROTHER'S NAME WAS NAHOR AND A CITY WAS NAMED AFTER HIM ALSO. ABRAHAM WANTED ELEAZAR TO GO BACK TO THE COUNTRY OF ABRAHAM TO FIND A WIFE FOR ISAAC.

IN THE DESERT, THE GATHERING PLACE WAS THE WELL; THERE WOMEN WOULD GATHER MORNING AND EVENING TO DRAW WATER FOR THEIR ANIMALS AND FAMILY. ELEAZAR KNEW THIS WAS THE GATHERING PLACE AND SO AROUND THE WELL IN THE CITY OF NAHOR ELEAZAR CHOSE TO REST HIS TIRED CAMELS AFTER THE LONG JOURNEY.

THERE BY THE WELL, ELEAZAR PRAYED TO GOD THAT THE WOMAN WHO WAS TO BE ISAAC'S WIFE WOULD SAY "LET DOWN THY PITCHER THAT I MAY DRINK AND I WILL GIVE YOUR CAMELS DRINK ALSO".

WHEN ELEAZAR HAD FINISHED PRAYING TO GOD, A BEAUTIFUL, PURE WOMAN, REBEKAH, CAME OUT WITH HER PITCHER UPON HER SHOULDER AND ELEAZAR SAID, "LET ME DRINK".

NOT ONLY WAS ELEAZAR GIVEN WATER TO DRINK BUT REBEKAH SAID, "I WILL GIVE YOUR CAMELS WATER TO DRINK ALSO". IT TOOK A LOT OF WATER TO SATISFY A THIRSTY CAMEL AND SHE HAD TEN

CAMELS TO WATER. REBEKAH WAS A TRUE SERVANT JUST AS ABRAHAM WANTED FOR HIS SON ISAAC. THEN ELEAZAR GAVE THANKS TO GOD FOR HE HAD LED HIM TO THE WIFE FOR ISAAC. ABRAHAM WOULD BE VERY HAPPY ELEAZAR HAD DONE ALL HE HAD ASKED.

REBEKAH TOOK ELEAZAR HOME TO HER BROTHER LABAN AND HER MOTHER AND ELEAZAR TOLD THEM THE ENTIRE STORY OF WHY HE HAD COME TO THE CITY OF NAHOR. REBEKAH'S FAMILY WAS VERY GOOD TO ELEAZAR; THEY FED HIM AND LISTENED TO HIS STORY.

SOON ALL THE BRIDLE GIFTS ELEAZAR HAD BROUGHT WERE GIVEN TO REBEKAH. GIFTS OF SILVER AND GOLD AND CLOTHING AND ELEAZAR ALSO GAVE GIFTS TO HER BROTHER LABAN AND REBEKAH'S MOTHER.

REBEKAH AGREED THAT SHE WOULD MARRY ISAAC. NOW IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE FOR REBEKAH WAS BETROTHED TO ISAAC. TOGETHER ELEAZAR AND REBEKAH WENT BACK TO CANAAN TO MEET ISAAC.

ISAAC WAS OUT IN THE FIELD FOR THE EVENING PRAYER AND HE SAW THE CAMELS RETURNING AND REBEKAH LIFTED UP HER EYES AND SAW ISAAC AND COVERED HER FACE WITH HER VEIL UNTIL AFTER THE MARRIAGE TO ISAAC.

ELEAZAR TOLD ISAAC ALL HE HAD DONE AND ISAAC TOOK REBEKAH AND SHE BECAME HIS WIFE. ISAAC "LOVED REBEKAH" VERY MUCH AND NOW ISAAC WAS COMFORTED AFTER THE LOSS OF HIS MOTHER SARAH.



AND IT CAME TO PASS... REBEKAH CAME OUT WHO WAS BORN TO THE WIFE OF NAHOR, ABRAHAM'S BROTHER... AND THE SERVANT (ELEAZAR) RAN TO MEET HER AND SAID LET ME, I PRAY THEE, DRINK A LITTLE WATER OF THY PITCHER... SHE SAID I WILL DRAW WATER FOR THY CAMELS ALSO... GENESIS 24:15, 17, 19



BRB