



Lesson 16

A BRIDE FOR ISAAC

Story Elements

- **TEXT:** Gen. 24:1-67
- **Setting:** circa 1900 B.C.
- **Characters:** God, Abramam, Eliezer, Rebekah, & Isaac
- **Plot:** Abraham sends his servant to Mesopotamia to find a bride for Isaac.
- **Key words:** “ _____ ”
(vv 21, 40 42, 56)
- **Climax:** *Genesis 24:15 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.*

Abraham’s Concern

- 1) (24:1-6) With his wife passed and his son growing older, Abraham was keenly aware of the need for Isaac to begin a family of his own. But Abraham was concerned about two things:
 - a) He wanted Isaac to marry a girl from his own people and not from the Canaanites; otherwise, Isaac might fall prey to Canaanite _____.
 - b) He did not want Isaac to return to Mesopotamia to find himself a wife because he might be tempted to stay and violate God’s call to the _____.
- 2) (24:7-9) To solve the problem, Abraham sent his oldest servant (probably _____) to Haran in Mesopotamia to find a wife for Isaac. Eliezer swore to do as Abraham asked and to never take Isaac back to the land Abraham had left.

Eliezer’s Journey

- 3) (24:10-11) With a caravan of 10 camels, Eliezer set out to the Nahor’s city (Haran), and after a long journey (about _____ miles) he came to a well outside the city.
- 4) (24:12-14) Eliezer’s prayer for guidance and provision in the matter at hand is as remarkable as it is simple:
 - a) It was simple in that it was not hypocritical or affected. It was prayed by a man in genuine need of divine _____.
 - b) It was remarkable because for a girl to offer water to a stranger at a well was commendable, but for her to then offer to draw water for 10 camels would be extraordinary. (A thirsty camel can drink over _____ gallons of water in less than 15 minutes.)

- 5) (24:15-28) Before Eliezer had finished praying, a young girl approached. Wondering if God had answered his prayer, Eliezer asked the girl her family name and learned that she was the daughter of Bethuel the son of Nahor (Abraham's brother). Indeed, God had answered his prayer! Rebekah was Isaac's _____, which is what Abraham had wanted for his son. (24:4, 38)
- 6) (24:29-49) Eliezer was received by Rebekah's family, including her brother _____. In recounting his commission from Abraham and his lengthy trip, Eliezer emphasized that God had made his journey prosperous by answering his specific prayer.
- 7) (24:50-53) Bethuel and Laban acknowledged that God had providentially provided, and they agreed to let Rebekah be married to Isaac. Eliezer then showered Rebekah with gifts, which became her _____.
- 8) (24:54-60) The next day, Eliezer was eager to return to Abraham. Rebekah agreed to forego tarrying and left immediately with Eliezer for her new home.

Isaac's Bride

- 9) (24:61-63) We do not know much about Isaac, but the Bible indicates he was a deeply spiritual man who enjoyed time alone in the fields. While _____ (praying), he saw Eliezer's caravan on the horizon.
- 10) (24:64-65) When Rebekah saw Isaac, she dismounted her camel and covered herself with her veil – both were signs of _____ and proper comportment.
- 11) (24:65-67) Isaac gave Rebekah _____ tent to show that she was the new queen of the camp, and "she became his wife; and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after the his mother's death." (cf. 23:1-2)

Application

- 12) The marriage of Rebekah to Isaac is wonderfully emblematic of Christ and his Church:
 - a) As Abraham masterminded the marriage of his son, so the _____ has chosen a bride for His Son. (Eph. 1:4)
 - b) As Eliezer had won over Rebekah for Isaac and gave her gifts, so the _____ draws us to Christ and gives us spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. 12:4-11)
 - c) As Isaac received Rebekah and loved her, so _____ receives his bride and loves her. (Eph. 5:25)
- 13) The way the word prosperous is used in this story teaches us that to be truly prosperous is to receive answers to prayer.

Answer Key

"Key word(s): "prosper(ous)" | 1. a) paganism; b) Promised Land | 2. Eliezer | 3. 470 | 4. a) guidance; b) 30 | 5. cousin | 6. Laban | 7. dowry | 9. meditating | 10. respect | 11. Sarah's | 12. a) Father; b) Holy Spirit; c) Christ | 13. answers to prayer.