

Genesis: From Creation to New Creation

[Genesis 24:1-67](#)

"An Old Testament Love Story"— April 2, 2023



Introduction

When you pause to look at the future of the church, do you see any threats? Maybe it is secularism, materialism, racism, divisive politicization, etc. The threats to the church are many. In [John 15](#), Jesus warned His disciples telling them that the world would hate them as they hated Him. Do you ever wonder if the church will make it? Will our children go to church? Will there be a people of God?

In Genesis 24, Moses gives us an answer to and a hope for the future church and people of God.

Sermon Outline

Scene 1 – The Servant's Oath vs. 1 – 9

Scene 2 – God's Covenant Love vs. 10-28

Scene 3 – Rebekah's Faith vs. 29-59

Scene 4 – Isaac's Love vs. 60-67

Read & Discuss

1. Read vs. 1-9

God had promised Abraham land, offspring, and a blessing. He waited decades. These years were riddled with "land mines" that would make us consider that all was hopeless. Yet at each step, God had proven Himself faithful. God's promise cannot end with Abraham. If his offspring were going to become as the stars of the sky, Isaac must have a wife. In [Genesis 3:15](#), God promised to raise up a man from the offspring of Eve to make right what sin has broken. Jesus would come from Abraham's offspring. No wife for Isaac means a threat to the future existence of the people of God.

The task given to the servant is impossible. **IF** he even found a woman, he had to convince her to leave her family that she will never see again. The servant understood the difficulty of the task, so he swore an oath. The future of the people of God was at stake.

We know that Abraham believed. As he walked with God through the ups and downs; sometimes he got it right and sometimes not. God was using all of those things as his faith grew to the point when he was willing to trust God with everything. Abraham's promise was rooted in God's word. ([Vs. 7](#)) He knew God was faithful, but he didn't know how all the details would play out? The servant stepped out in faith to trust a sovereign God. Has there been a time in your life when you did the same? How did stepping out in faith make you feel? How did it turn out? Were you tempted to take sinful shortcuts? The confidence that Abraham had is available to all of us for every aspect of our life. We can have joy, confidence and peace. Do you trust God when you see threats to the church?

2. Read vs. 10-28

Abraham hadn't been back to his homeland in 75 years. The servant was looking for a needle in a haystack, so he started where all God's people should start - prayer. His prayer was rooted in God's character. ([vs. 12](#)) God's steadfast love is rooted in His faithfulness to His promise. It is His covenant love. God loves to answer prayers that are according to His will. ([1 John 5:14](#))

The task of watering the camels would have been daunting. When the servant asked God to show him a woman who would water the camels, it wasn't a "fleece." He was asking God to send a woman of a certain character. Before the servant finished praying, Rebekah showed up with a water jar. She did the task with zeal ([Vs. 20](#)) and joy. When the servant saw that God had answered his prayer, he bowed and worshiped the Lord. What is the first thing you do when faced with an impossible situation? Along with prayer, is there another Godly friend from whom you can seek counsel? What keeps you from acting or taking the next step?

God is the hero of this story. He works out all the details. There is no coincidence or luck. God is the Creator of all things and the Lord of all things. He arranges all of life to suit and affect His providence. We are meant to see this and worship. How do you see God? Is He a big God who acts according to His character or is your god the one depicted by your tiny imagination?

3. Read vs. 29-59

Why does Moses include the servant's recounting of the story to Rebekah's relatives? He was showing that God is in control of all the details. Laban acknowledged that this was from the Lord. What motivated Laban? ([vs. 30](#)) Laban saw the gold. He saw an opportunity. We need to take this as a warning. We should not be "me-focused." Laban's greed was a contrast to Rebekah's servant heart.

The family gave their blessing, but the final say was made by Rebekah. If she walked away, all is lost. She was being asked to leave her family and her country. But after hearing God's word, she believed it and was willing to go. She was beginning to trust the God of Abraham.

God guided and blessed the servant. He was the main character of the story, but we don't know his name. It could have been Eliezar of Damascus who, before the birth of Isaac, was in line to inherit Abraham's wealth. But this servant was committed to God's plan. He was selfless because he has experienced God's unfailing love.

Does this story remind you of [John 4](#)? Jesus had a physical thirst, but the Samaritan woman has a soul thirst. Just as the servant was looking for a bride for Isaac, Jesus came looking for a bride for Himself - the church. He found His bride by laying down His life in our place for our sake. One the third day, He arose. He is calling us to turn from our sin to Himself, inviting us to the wedding feast.

Additional Reading: *John 4*

4. Read vs. 60-67

The servant returned with Rebekah. Isaac was convinced. Here we see Isaac's steadfast love for her. We also see that "the baton" had been passed from Abraham and Sarah to Isaac and Rebekah. Through their offspring would come **THE** offspring Who would crush the head of Satan. ([Genesis 3:15](#)) Jesus came and gave His life. He then passed the baton to His church. ([Matthew 28:18-20](#))

Can you see God's providence in your life? How did you become a Christian? If we asked everyone in our church that question, we would hear story after story of how God brought you to Himself. If He has been faithful to you this far, He will be faithful to you now.

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at

Next week's sermon text: we turn to John 2:13-22 "The Christ was Raised"
