

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 24

Chapter twenty-four is all about a bride for Isaac and the tale of a *faithful steward*, Eliezer of Damascus (See Genesis 15:2). God had blessed Abraham in every way, and he knew it would not be in anywise good for Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman, who would steal his heart away from the true and living God. Abraham summons his faithful and oldest steward to be assigned the greatest task of any person related to Abraham, namely, to go to his relatives and find a wife for Isaac. In verses two and three we witness the ancient custom on having man swear by an oath to fulfill a promise by putting his hand in between the legs on the upper thigh near the reproductive organs of a man, to in effect say, "I will carry out this assignment, because your lineage depends upon me being faithful". After further clarification of responsibilities, Eliezer swears the oath and begins the journey to Abraham's family.

Notice the large entourage of servants, a caravan of camels, livestock, and gifts to be given in exchange for the wife of Isaac and to the prospective wife. After much negotiation and consent from Rebekah (Hebrew-Rivkah), the deal is made and the caravan begins the long journey back to Beer Lahai Roi, in the Negev (Southern Israel), where Isaac was dwelling at that time. Isaac was in the field "*meditating in the evening*" (v. 63)

and when Rebekah saw him and understood it was her husband, that she dismounted her camel and Isaac took her into his tent and made her his wife. The last portion of the last verse of the chapter says, "...and he loved her, so Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*." Isaac was still mourning the only woman he had loved, and it was not until Rebekah came that He began to get over the death of his mother Sarah.

Prayer and Action Steps

First, thank God for the example of Eliezer of Damascus, who gave us a paradigm of what a faithful servant looks like in the flesh. Second, thank God that He brings people into our lives to comfort and encourage us when we desperately need someone in the flesh. That is not always, but sometimes we just need to feel the touch of another human being who loves us, understands, and cares for our soul. Ask God to make you a faithful Steward in everything (1 Corinthians 4:1-2) you do and specifically in relation to His plan and purpose for your life. Commit yourself to "being there" for the people in your life God has brought your way; your family, friends and even those strangers that God allows to cross your path. Be an encourager. We cannot see the heart, only God can, so be kind and encouraging to everyone. We never know what someone is going through or the losses they have sustained.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
