

Isaac Marries Rebekah

Introduces Functions of Family

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What We Will Learn

- Prayer by head of household is important and covers members that believe in it
- How Rebekah accepted opportunity to become the great grandmother of Christ

What We Will Learn cont'd

- Three functions of the family structure
 - Preservation of heritage
 - Cradle for identification
 - Structure for regulation of human interactions
- Study based on Genesis 24:1–67

Abraham's Request

- Abraham made his servant swear an oath
- Will not let Isaac marry a Canaanite
- Will go and get a wife for Isaac from “my country and relatives” (my cradle)
- Will not take Isaac back there
- He prayed for his servant and the mission
- Genesis 24:1–9

Abraham's Concerns Regarding Isaac's Marriage

- God's promise to Abraham will be fulfilled through Isaac's offspring
- Fulfillment of promise could be jeopardized by marrying worshippers of other gods
- Abraham identified his "country and relatives" as people he could trust

A Specific Prayer by the Well

- Abraham's servant arrived at a well outside the town of Nahor
- He invoked Abraham's prayer
- Prayed God to show him the girl for Isaac
 - The girl will draw water from the well
 - Grant him a request to drink from her jar
 - Offer to water his camels
- Genesis 24:10–14

Prayer Answered: Miracle by the Well

- Rebekah arrived at the well
- She granted the man's request for a drink
- She also watered his camels voluntarily
- Genesis 24:15–21

Rebekah Accepts Opportunity

- Rebekah's arrival at the well at that time presented her an opportunity
- She recognized a need and provided for it
 - She had a choice
 - If she didn't, another person would have
 - She did because she trained herself for this through her family
- "I was thirsty and you gave me a drink"

Found Right Girl for Isaac

- Rebekah introduced herself in response to the man's inquiry
- The man praised God
 - For kindness and faithfulness to Abraham
 - For leading him to the house of Abraham's relatives
- Genesis 24:22–27

Rebekah's Family Takes Over

- Rebekah invited her family
- Her brother Laban met and invited the visitor to their home
- The relatives took over subsequent interactions with the visitor
- Genesis 24:28–32

Marriage Negotiation

- The visitor presented his mission to Rebekah's relatives
- The relatives declared their acceptance and said they believed it was the will of God
- The visitor rejoiced, thanked God, and presented gifts to Rebekah and her relatives
- Genesis 24:33–41, 42–49, & 50–53

Marriage Negotiation cont'd

- The people shared food
- The relatives concluded the marriage
 - Negotiated time of Rebekah's departure
 - Blessed her
 - Released her with an entourage
- Genesis 24:54–61

The Marriage

- Rebekah, Abraham's servant, and their entourage arrived at Isaac's home
- Isaac married Rebekah
- Genesis 24:62–67

Concluding Remarks

- Prayer of head of household covers members that believe in the prayer
- Abraham prayed for his servant at the beginning of his journey
- The servant invoked Abraham's prayer each time he prayed
- His prayer was granted exactly as prayed

Concluding Remarks cont'd

- Abraham used the family structure
 - To satisfy himself that Isaac's marriage will not jeopardize fulfillment of God's promise
 - To identify a trusted source of wife for Isaac ("my country and my own relatives")
- Family as structure for regulation of human interactions
 - Rebekah's relations handled the marriage negotiations

Concluding Remarks cont'd

- How do you respond to family and individual needs at home?
- Devise ways to avoid seeing the need?
- Look the other way, like the priest or Levite?
- Recognize the need and do what you can to provide for it?
 - The only way to train yourself to recognize needs that have been placed in your path