

Genesis chapter twenty-four is the longest chapter in the book of Genesis. However, this chapter is solely devoted to one subject: the quest to find a suitable marriage partner for Abraham's son, Isaac.

As we travel the course of this narrative, we will encounter four primary segments:

- In part one, Abraham will appoint an executive assistant to oversee this mission.
- Abraham will relay his instructions and dispatch his special agent to carry out that mission in part two.
- Part three explains how God ensured the success of that operation.
- Finally, part four details the ultimate fulfillment of that mission.

So with that background information in place, let's begin our look at this portion of Scripture...

***“Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things”
(Genesis 24:1).***

Abraham was approximately 140 years old at the time of these events. So, in view of his age, Abraham began to make some preparations in advance of his eventual death. One of those preparations involved finding the right marriage partner for his son Isaac...

***“So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, “Please, put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac”
(Genesis 24:2-4).***

Isaac was about forty years old when Abraham made this call to his servant. That meant Isaac was still unmarried in a culture when some of his contemporaries may have been grandfathers. Abraham's instructions to his servant may hold a clue as to why Isaac remained unmarried for such a long time: ***“I want you to make a vow in the name of the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not choose a wife for my son from the people here in Canaan” (Genesis 24:3 GNB).***

So it appears that Isaac remained single because there were no suitable marriage partners in his area. However, Abraham was so determined to find the right person for Isaac that he told his servant, ***“Put your hand under my thigh... (and) swear...”*** in verse two. This act apparently referred to a solemn vow with a dark connotation: *“May my descendants avenge me if you fail to fulfill your oath.”*

From a practical perspective, it would have been to Abraham's advantage to arrange a marital union between his son and a daughter of a prominent local leader. That would have allowed Abraham to “marry into the family” of a regional official and help provide him with some additional security in an area where he resided as a stranger ([Genesis 23:3-4](#)). Nevertheless, Abraham refused to consider that option.

Abraham clearly recognized that neighbors were not followers of God. Instead, their spiritual beliefs apparently fell into two broad categories. The first comprised those who chose to live as if God did not exist. The second consisted of others who accepted “god” as an abstract concept, but had chosen to worship an inferior substitute. Of course, that situation was not unique to Abraham's era because many continue to fall into one of these two categories today.

Abraham also understood a principle that God would later codify through the inspired pen of Paul the Apostle: ***“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).***

That portion of Scripture serves as a definitive guide for God-honoring dating and marriage relationships- and those who disregard that prohibition do so at great risk.

Of course, this approach may sound incredibly restrictive to some. After all, there are many non-Christian individuals who are honorable, ethical, and moral; the same qualities that anyone would look for in a dating or marriage relationship. So why would we disqualify someone who exhibits those characteristics in view of his or her spiritual beliefs?

The reason is that those who hold alternative spiritual beliefs do not travel in the same direction as those who follow the God of the Scriptures. Abraham's first concern involved following the [God who called him](#). Therefore, he sets the right example for those who follow that same God through Christ today.

On the other hand, those who are "yoked" together with non-Christians in a marriage relationship often pull in different directions with respect to the choices, decisions, and activities of daily life. As many will attest, such relationships are often unsustainable.

Consider the Biblical admonitions concerning this subject from the perspective of the Old and New Testaments....

“When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are about to enter and occupy, he will clear away many nations ahead of you... You must not intermarry with them. Do not let your daughters and sons marry their sons and daughters, for they will lead your children away from me to worship other gods. Then the anger of the Lord will burn against you, and he will quickly destroy you”
(Deuteronomy 7:1, 2-4 NLT).

We can return to our earlier reference from the book of 2 Corinthians with an extended quote from another translation...

“Stop forming inappropriate relationships with unbelievers. Can right and wrong be partners? Can light have anything in common with darkness? Can Christ agree with the devil? Can a believer share life with an unbeliever? Can God’s temple contain false gods? Clearly, we are the temple of the living God.

As God said, ‘I will live and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people.’ The Lord says, ‘Get away from unbelievers. Separate yourselves from them. Have nothing to do with anything unclean. Then I will welcome you.’ The Lord Almighty says, ‘I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters’” (2 Corinthians 6:14-17 GW).

A Christian who is involved in a dating relationship with a non-Christian may feel that his or her partner will eventually get serious about a relationship with Christ. While this is a hopeful possibility, the unfortunate reality is that a non-Christian partner often wields greater influence in such relationships. These admonitions thus remind us of the need to exercise discernment in our romantic partnerships.

For his part, Abraham sought to ensure that Isaac had a marriage partner who did not hold the spiritual values of those who lived in the surrounding areas. So just as Abraham looked for a marriage partner for his son from among the members of his family, we should also look to our own spiritual family (those who are equally serious about following Christ) in our dating relationships.

So Abraham called in his executive assistant to undertake this project. However, Abraham's special agent had some questions regarding his assignment...

“And the servant said to him, ‘Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?’ But Abraham said to him, ‘Beware that you do not take my son back there’” (Genesis 24:5-6).

Since Abraham was unwilling to let Isaac travel back to his family's place of origin, his servant had to find someone who was willing to...

1. Leave her country, her people, and everything that was familiar to her.
2. Go to a new land that Abraham's servant would show her.

In other words, Abraham wanted Isaac to have someone who was willing to respond in a manner that was reminiscent of his own calling ([Genesis 12:1](#)). Of course, that put Abraham's servant in a difficult position. If Isaac wasn't allowed to marry a local woman and Abraham wouldn't permit him to leave and make his own choice, then what would he do if he couldn't find anyone to accept his offer?

But Abraham had a ready response...

“The Lord God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land,’ He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there.’ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter” (Genesis 24:7-9).

So Abraham was confident in God's ability to bring his mission to a successful conclusion. In fact, Abraham was so confident of success that he agreed to release his servant from any further responsibility if he could not find someone to accept his offer. This represents another expression of Abraham's great faith in God.

“Then the servant took ten of his master’s camels and departed, for all his master’s goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor” (Genesis 24:10).

There were several reasons to explain why Abraham's servant had to leave with ten camels in order to transport one bride.

First, this caravan had to be impressive enough to demonstrate Abraham's stature. For instance, Abraham's servant had to impress the potential bride (and her family) and convince them that Isaac was worthy of a marriage partnership.

He also had to provide room for the bride and her entourage on the trip back home. Finally, Abraham's servant had to make certain that he had an extra camel or two in case one animal became sick or disabled along the way.

So Abraham's servant loaded his convoy and set out for ***“...the region of Aram Naharaim” (NET)***, or Mesopotamia. Since Aram Naharaim was roughly five hundred miles (eight hundred km) away from Abraham's home, this journey likely took a month or more to complete. Therefore, it's not surprising to learn that this caravan headed right for the town's water well upon their arrival...

“And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water” (Genesis 24:11).

One commentary offers some additional insight into this passage...

“A stranger in those regions, who wishes to obtain information, stations himself at one of the wells in the neighborhood of a town, and he is sure to learn all the news of the place from the women who frequent them every morning and evening. [Abraham's servant] followed this course, and letting his camels rest, he waited till the evening time of water drawing.” ⁽¹⁾

So if you were someone who was looking for a potential marriage partner during that time, the local water well was a good place to be. Since Abraham's servant had the important responsibility of finding a bride for Abraham's son, he put himself in the best position to accomplish that mission. That meant taking a position near the town water well when the women of that area were scheduled to arrive.

But Abraham's servant didn't stop there, for he followed up by asking for God's help and direction...

“Then he said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham'” (Genesis 24:12).

So Abraham's servant did what he could and sought God for His blessing. This reminds us of the need to prayerfully seek God's direction before we make decisions.

Unfortunately, there are some who decide what they wish to do first and then seek God's blessing on their choice. The problem is that we sometimes tend to wait until things go wrong before we seek God's counsel and direction. Abraham's servant made certain to avoid that error.

(1) *Jamieson-Fausset-Brown commentary: Genesis.* (n.d.). [v. 10] <https://ccel.org/j/jfb/jfb/JFB01.htm>

Following his prayer for God's blessing, Abraham's servant next proposed a test to help him make the right decision...

“Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, ‘Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink’—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master'” (Genesis 24:13-14).

So Abraham's servant asked God to confirm His direction with a specific series of events that were unlikely to occur by chance or accident. For example, there were ten camels in this caravan, and making certain that each had enough to drink was more than a matter of putting some water in a bowl.

You see, a camel can go without water for a longer period than any other domesticated animal. A camel can survive for weeks without water and can gulp down over thirty gallons (114 liters) of water in just thirteen minutes. ⁽¹⁾

So if each of these camels only drank twenty gallons (76 liters) of water, that would total two hundred gallons (757 liters) of water for all ten camels. A person who undertook that responsibility had to spend a great deal of effort, for all that water had to be retrieved from a well by hand.

If the well was a cistern design, then someone would have to lower a bucket on a rope to haul up the water. If it was reservoir-type well, then someone would have to travel up and down a slope or staircase to bring the water up.

While the act of getting a drink for a stranger was a courteous gesture, the task of providing water for ten thirsty camels was quite demanding. So anyone who was willing to accept that responsibility was someone who was definitely out of the ordinary.

(1) Radosavljevic, V. (2024, February 19). *14 interesting & fun facts about camels: Types, lifespan & traits.* Animal World. <https://animal-world.com/facts-about-camels/> Accessed 12 October, 2024

The act of volunteering to provide water for ten camels would reveal an important aspect of any woman's character. For example, it would exemplify her as a person who acknowledged and accepted responsibility to complete a task that required attention.

She would also show herself as someone kind and helpful; not only to Abraham's servant, but also to the animals who were with him. Finally, she would prove herself to be someone who possessed a strong work ethic, thus dispelling any notions of laziness or self-absorption. Therefore, anyone who could pass that test was sure to be someone special.

So Abraham's servant prepared himself by ensuring that he was in the right place at the right time. He also made certain to pray, and he asked God to confirm His direction with a sequence of events that was unattributable to mere coincidence.

And now we're about to meet a young woman who was blissfully unaware that her life was about to change forever...

“And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up” (Genesis 24:15-16).

So before Abraham's servant could finish his prayer, a young lady came to draw water from the local well. Her name was Rebekah, and she was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother, Nahor. This meant Rebekah was related to Abraham's son Isaac as a second cousin.

That brings us to Abraham's mission statement for this trip: ***“...go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac” (Genesis 24:4 NIV)***. So Rebekah met the first qualification- but there were some additional provisions that were yet to be met...

“And the servant ran to meet her and said, 'Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher.' So she said, 'Drink, my lord.' Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink” (Genesis 24:17-18).

Rebekah exhibited her courteous and helpful nature while interacting with a complete stranger. She could have ignored this request, or told Abraham's servant to get his own water. Instead, she was kind and respectful to a thirsty traveler.

“And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, 'I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.' Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels” (Genesis 24:19-20).

So Rebekah volunteered to do more than simply give a sip of water to an anonymous stranger. She also said, ***“I will get water for your camels till they have had enough” (BBE)***. Rebekah must have recognized that these animals were tired and thirsty from their trip and sought to get involved in meeting that need.

While it seemed that God had given Abraham's servant exactly what he asked for, it was easy for Rebekah to *make* that promise, but not so easy to *keep* that promise. So Abraham's servant decided to see if she was willing to live up to her word...

“And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the Lord had made his journey prosperous or not” (Genesis 24:21).

Abraham's servant wisely watched to see just how well Rebekah lived up to her promise. Remember that he was still a stranger to Rebekah. Since she had no reason to be nice to him, any help she offered would serve to demonstrate her character.

“So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold” (Genesis 24:22).

In appreciation for her kindness, Abraham's servant rewarded Rebekah with a gift of expensive jewelry. First, she was presented with the gift of a nose ring that carried the weight of half a shekel. This was equivalent to approximately 5-6 grams or 0.2 oz in a modern system of weights and measures. ⁽¹⁾ At an exchange rate of \$1000.00 (U.S.) per ounce, this piece of jewelry would be worth between \$150.00 and \$200.00 (U.S.) today.

We're also told that Abraham's servant also gave Rebekah a gift of two gold bracelets weighing 10 shekels. These bracelets were probably more elaborate than the simple wrist bracelets we may know today. Since a bracelet of Abraham's day was worn along the forearm and typically extended from the elbow to the wrist, this must have been an impressive piece of jewelry.

One "shekel" was equivalent to 11.5 grams, so the total weight of these bracelets was about 115 grams, or approximately 4 ounces. ⁽¹⁾ If we were to estimate the modern-day value of these bracelets today, we would have to spend almost \$1300.00 (U.S.) for the worth of the gold alone. ⁽²⁾

So Rebekah received a valuable reward for her help, but Abraham's servant wasn't finished. It was now time for some final questions...

"...[He] said, 'Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?' So she said to him, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor.' Moreover she said to him, 'We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge'"
(Genesis 24:23-25).

It's clear that God arranged for Abraham's servant to meet the right person at the right place at the right time. In a short time, he learned Rebekah was pure and beautiful (verse 16), considerate (verse 18), kind (verse 19), and a hard worker (verse 20). She came from the right family (verse 24) and she was willing to offer him a place to stay and food to feed his animals. So it should not surprise us to learn how Abraham's servant responded next.

(1) NETBible: Genesis 24:22. (n.d.). <https://classic.net.bible.org/passage.php?passage=gen%2024:22#n2>

(2) At a rate of \$1000.00 (U.S.) per ounce

"Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the Lord. And he said, 'Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren'"
27).

When we consider all that has transpired to this point, it's no wonder that Abraham's servant reacted in this manner. It appears that he was so overwhelmed by God's answer to his prayer that he responded with a spontaneous outpouring of worship, thankfulness, and appreciation.

That response offers a valuable lesson for today: when God answers our prayers, we shouldn't forget to thank Him for His answers. Jesus once had a regrettable experience in this regard...

"As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem, he went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. He was going into a village when he was met by ten men suffering from a dreaded skin disease. They stood at a distance and shouted, 'Jesus! Master! Have pity on us!' Jesus saw them and said to them, 'Go and let the priests examine you.'

On the way they were made clean. When one of them saw that he was healed, he came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself to the ground at Jesus' feet and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. Jesus spoke up, 'There were ten who were healed; where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?' And Jesus said to him, 'Get up and go; your faith has made you well'"
(Luke 17:11-19 GNB).

We should recognize that Jesus noted the nine men who received a healing but declined to return to express their thankfulness. Jesus clearly missed them and wondered why they didn't show courtesy, respect, and appreciation to God for His blessings.

This reminds us that God notices when we neglect to thank Him for the good things He has bestowed upon us, just as we would look for an expression of appreciation from someone we have helped. Taken together, these Scriptures emphasize the need to maintain an attitude of thankfulness and appreciation for God's answers to our prayers.

Little did Rebekah know that her selfless act of watering ten thirsty camels was the answer to someone's prayer. However, she quickly realized that something of greater importance was unfolding behind the scenes...

“So the young woman ran and told her mother’s household these things. Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well.

So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, 'Thus the man spoke to me,' that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well.

And he said, 'Come in, O blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels.' Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him” (Genesis 24:28-32).

It's interesting to note that Rebekah's brother, Laban, went out to meet the man who had given these lavish gifts to his sister. In the culture of that era, one might normally expect a father to assume that responsibility. However, Rebekah's father, Bethuel, will only make a brief appearance within this narrative.

If Bethuel was incapacitated in some way, it would serve to explain why Rebekah informed “***her mother's household***” about what had taken place instead of “her father's household” as we might normally expect within that culture. It would also explain why Rebekah's brother Laban stepped in to fulfill that patriarchal role.

We will become better acquainted with Rebekah's brother Laban later in our study of the book of Genesis. Nevertheless, these verses give us a brief preview of his character. Notice the specific points of emphasis here in Genesis 24:30: “***As soon as (Laban) had seen the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and had heard Rebekah tell what the man said to her, he went out to the man....***”

Laban was ready to spring into action as soon as he caught sight of the expensive jewelry his sister received from this mysterious stranger and heard what she had to say about him. But what was Laban's intent?

Laban's motive for welcoming this visitor may have been twofold. On one hand, Laban may have sought to demonstrate his appreciation for the valuable gifts that Abraham's servant had lavished upon his sister. On the other hand, Laban may have been motivated (at least in part) by a desire to exploit the potential benefits that might arise from a relationship with this wealthy newcomer. In time, Laban will prove himself to be highly skilled in manipulating his relationships with others in order to serve his interests.

“Food was set before him to eat, but he said, 'I will not eat until I have told about my errand.' And [Laban] said, 'Speak on'” (Genesis 24:33).

Genesis 24:32 told us that Laban offered the traditional courtesies that were afforded to a guest in that culture. First, he ensured that the animals that carried his visitor were cared for. Next, ***“...he brought water for Abraham’s servant and his men to wash their feet” (GNB).***

Since there were few paved roads in that era, a person who walked along a typical dirt road often had to navigate through dust, mud, and various forms of waste. So when a traveler wearing open-toed footwear entered someone’s home, a servant typically removed his or her sandals, poured water over that person's feet, and dried them with a towel as a courtesy.

After that, a host and his or her guest often sat down to enjoy a meal together. While business negotiations (if any) normally followed that meal, Abraham’s servant wasn’t interested in wasting time with such formalities. In fact, Abraham’s servant was so determined to fulfill his mandate that he refused to eat until he explained the purpose of his journey ([Genesis 24:34-48](#)).

He then finished by saying this...

“Now if you 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” (Genesis 24:49).

So Abraham’s servant essentially told Rebekah’s family, *“She is precisely the person I came looking for. Will you let her go with me?”* That left Rebekah’s family with an important decision to make...

“Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, 'The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master’s son’s wife, as the Lord has spoken'” (Genesis 24:50-51).

To their credit, we can paraphrase Laban and Bethuel's response by saying, *“God has clearly orchestrated this arrangement. So who are we to stand in the way? We will accept God's plan for our family.”*

“And it came to pass, when Abraham’s servant heard their words, that he worshiped the Lord, bowing himself to the earth. Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother” (Genesis 24:52-53).

It was customary for a groom or his representative to present gifts to the bride’s family upon the finalization of a marriage agreement. Those gifts showcased the groom’s ability to provide for the bride once they entered their marriage relationship. They also served to compensate the bride’s family for the loss of their daughter as a valuable worker.

You see, once Rebekah left home, someone else would have to accept her responsibilities. While no one could fill the void left by a beloved family member, the groom was expected to compensate the bride’s parents for the absence of their daughter as an integral part of their family. Abraham’s servant fulfilled that cultural mandate by providing Rebekah and her family with some very costly gifts.

“And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, 'Send me away to my master.' But her brother and her mother said, 'Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go'”

And he said to them, 'Do not hinder me, since the Lord has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master'” (Genesis 24:54-56).

Since the marriage arrangements had been finalized, Abraham’s servant expressed his intent to pack up and leave with Rebekah the very next morning. However, it seems that her family wasn’t ready to let her go quite so soon: ***“Let the girl stay with us for about ten days. Then she can go” (CSB).***

However, Abraham's servant was determined to begin their road trip: ***"Don't delay me now that the LORD has made my trip successful. Let me go back to my master"*** (GW).

While it is easy to understand why Rebekah's family might wish to delay her departure, there were several important factors to consider. For example, a decision to stay might have presented an opportunity for a family member to entertain second thoughts about letting Rebekah go. There was also the possibility that a relatively brief delay might turn into something much longer. Instead, Abraham's servant sought to avoid those potential issues by moving forward as quickly as possible.

So, this episode from Genesis chapter twenty-four reminds us of the need to remain focused on fulfilling God's direction for our lives without delay. Abraham's servant refused to divert from the mission he was sent to perform- and his response offers an example we can apply today.

You see, God provides us with opportunities to represent Him at home, school, work, or wherever we happen to be. Since the opportunities that are available to us may be limited, today is the day to represent Him in an appropriate manner. Abraham's servant was focused on completing his master's work without delay, and he offers a good example to follow as we act on God's will for our lives.

If we choose to begin putting things off until "tomorrow," we may find that "tomorrow" quickly turns into "next week," "next month," "next year," or perhaps, "never." This may explain why the Biblical book of Hebrews tells us, ***"...encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception"*** (Hebrews 3:13 HCSB).

Rebekah's family wanted Abraham's servant to stay for a while, but he wasn't willing to delay an effort that God had clearly orchestrated. In a similar manner, the time to do what God is calling us to do is today.

So it seems that Rebekah's family and Abraham's servant found themselves at a stalemate- that is, until someone came up with an idea...

"So they said, 'We will call the young woman and ask her personally.' Then they called Rebekah and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' And she said, 'I will go'" (Genesis 24:57-58).

Before we continue, let's consider Rebekah's position. Rebekah had known Abraham's servant for less than one day. Now he was asking her to leave her family, her home, and her circle of friends in order to go with him to a place she'd never been before. He then wanted her to get married to a man she'd never met and spend the rest of her life with him in a foreign country.

It's probably safe to say that most women in Rebekah's position would decline such an offer. But Rebekah didn't hesitate: ***"They called her and asked, 'Are you willing to leave with this man right now?' 'Yes,' she answered"*** (CEV). So it appears that Rebekah sought to move forward on God's agenda without delay, much like Abraham's servant.

"So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.

And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: 'Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them.' Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed" (Genesis 24:59-61).

While the idea of traveling for hundreds of miles on the back of a camel may not sound like an enjoyable experience, it represented the quickest and safest way to cover the distance that lay between Rebekah's old home and her new home.

“Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

“Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; for she had said to the servant, 'Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took a veil and covered herself.

And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death” (Genesis 24:62-67).

It was customary for a bride to veil herself in the presence of her future husband as a sign of respect and modesty. So, after he received the complete report concerning Rebekah, Isaac brought her to the tent that had previously belonged to his mother, Sarah.

That gesture told everyone that Rebekah had now assumed Sarah's place as the matriarch of their family. So even though Isaac's marriage was arranged without his involvement, it shouldn't be surprising to learn that he loved his bride, because she was clearly God's choice for him.