

# Chayei Sarah תַּבֵּי שָׂרָה

## "Life of Sarah"

Genesis 23:1-25:18 Genesis 24:4

But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred and take a wife unto my son Isaac

#### Overview

Abraham's wife, Sarah, was 127 years old when she died in Kirjath-Arba, also known

as Hebron, in the land of Canaan. Abraham makes a deal with Ephron, the son of Zohar to buy the cave of Machpelah and the field where the cave was located. This cave becomes the burying place for Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah. By purchasing this burial place to be used by future generations, Abraham indicates he is there to stay in the land God promised him.

When Isaac is ready to take a wife, Abraham sends his eldest servant to Haran, to Abraham's family to find a wife for Isaac. The servant does as Abraham asks and brings the young maiden, Rebekah, from Haran to Canaan and she marries Isaac.

Abraham marries Keturah and is blessed with six sons, who in turn also have sons, showing that God is fulfilling His promise to bless Abraham with many descendants. However, Isaac is lifted up as the son of promise, born to Sarah in her old age. He is to be Abraham's heir to continue in the covenantal promise of God, so Abraham gives Isaac all he has.

Abraham dies at the age of 175 years old. His sons Isaac and Ishmael bury him with Sarah in the cave of Machpelah which Abraham bought from Ephron.

Ishmael, Abraham's son by Hagar (Sarah's handmaid) also has many sons, and lives to be 137 years old. He is buried near Egypt.

### Focus Passage of Scripture: Genesis 24:1-67

When Isaac is old enough to take a wife, Abraham knows his son must not marry a Canaanite woman. Since Isaac believes in and worships the one true God, he must marry a maiden who believes as he does and who has the same commitment to God. He needs a wife from the family of Abraham who knows God and who does not worship idols.

Abraham has his eldest servant Eliezer (Genesis 15:2), swear an oath that he will return to Haran, to the family of Abraham, to find a wife for Isaac and bring her back to Canaan. He tells his servant that God will send His angel before him as he goes on this journey to accomplish this important task.

Eliezer swears to do as Abraham asks although, since he does not yet believe in God, he thinks this is an impossible



task. He does not believe that a young woman would be willing to leave her home and family and go to a strange land to marry a man she has never met. He asks if he should take Isaac with him, but Abraham says that Isaac must not leave the land of Canaan. Abraham tells him that if the young girl will not go with him, Eliezer is free from his oath.

The servant Eliezer and some other men travel to Haran and stop at the well outside the city. They arrive at the time the young women go out to draw water. Since Eliezer does not yet believe in God, he prays to the God of Abraham asking for a sign to show him who is the right young maiden for Isaac. He will ask a young girl for a drink of water and if she gives him a drink and she also says she will give water to all his camels, he will know she is the right maiden to be Isaac's wife.

Just as the servant is finishing his prayer a beautiful young girl named Rebekah comes to the well to draw water. Eliezer runs to her and asks her for a drink of water, which she gladly gives him. She then tells him she will also draw water for all his camels. He wonders if Abraham's God has answered his prayer and will give him success in his journey.



Eliezer gives Rebekah some gifts of jewelry he brought and asks her who she is and if he and the men with him could spend the night with her family. She tells him she is the daughter of Bethuel, who is the son of Milcah the wife of Nahor, the brother of Abraham. When Rebekah tells Eliezer he and his men are welcome to stay with her family, he bows down and worships the God of Abraham, thanking Him for leading him to the family of his master.

Eliezer and the men with him stay by the well as Rebekah runs home to tell her family that they will be coming. Her brother, Laban, runs to the well to greet them and to bring them to their home. The camels are taken care of, and the men are brought into the house, given water to wash their feet, and given food to eat.

Before Eliezer will eat, he insists on telling Rebekah's family why he has come. He explains to them he is Abraham's servant. He states that God has greatly blessed his master so that he is very wealthy, and that God blessed Sarah in her old age and

allowed her to have a son, Isaac. Now that Isaac has grown, Abraham has given to him all that he has, and he also desires to find a Godly wife for his son. Eliezer tells Rebekah's family that Abraham said that Isaac was not to marry a Canaanite woman, but that a wife needs to be found from his family in Haran. The servant tells them how he had prayed to the God of his master that he would know the right maiden because she would be the one that would give him a drink and she would also give water to all his camels. He states that when Rebekah did those things, he knew the God of Abraham had answered his prayer.

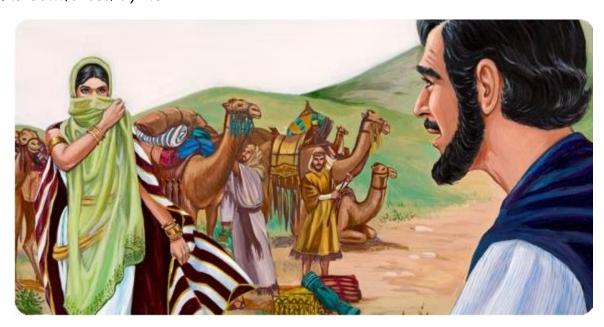
After telling them his story, Eliezer asks Rebekah's father and brother if they would allow her to return with him to Canaan to marry Isaac. They state that this plan is from God, and they will not go against it. They will do God's will and allow Rebekah to go with him to Canaan, to become Isaac's wife. At hearing this, Eliezer bows down and worships the Lord. He now understands that the God of his master is the one true God, and he believes in Him and worships Him. Eliezer then gives to Rebekah gifts of silver, jewels, gold, and raiment, and also gives precious gifts to her family.

Eliezer and the men with him then eat and drink with Rebekah's family. They spend the night and arise the next morning, ready to return to Canaan. However, Rebekah's mother and brother request that they stay for a while longer before taking the young maiden away. The servant asks that they let them leave as he is desiring to return to his master. They all decide to ask Rebekah what she wants to do. When they ask her if she will leave that day with Eliezer, she answers "I will go."

Rebekah's family blesses her and says good-bye. She, her nurse, and her damsels ride upon the camels and follow Eliezer and his men. They head back to the land of Canaan, to the house of Abraham and Isaac.

One evening as the group from Haran is drawing near, Isaac is out in the field to pray. He looks and sees the caravan approaching. Rebekah looks and sees Isaac so she gets off her camel and covers herself with her veil. When the group reaches Isaac, the servant tells him all that had happened on the trip.

Isaac brings Rebekah into his mother Sarah's tent. She becomes his wife, and he loves her and is comforted by her.



This story of how Isaac and Rebekah were brought together by God in order to have a long and blessed marriage, shows us how important marriage is to Him. Marriage is meant to be a covenental relationship between a man, a woman, and God. There must be unity between the man and God and the woman and God or there won't be a true unity between the man and the woman. There must be a common spiritual foundation for the relationship to work as God intended. Before we seek a relationship with anyone, we should first build our relationship with God by praying, worshipping Him, studying His word, and seeking His will in our lives. Then we will be more able to be the husband or wife God intended us to be.

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## Chayei Sarah

### "Life of Sarah"

Match each clue on the left with the correct answer on t	he right.
1. Went to Abraham's country and family to find a wife for Abraham's son	A. She watered the camels
2. Abraham's son who needed a Godly wife	B. Haran
3. Young girl who became the wife of Abraham's son	C. The servant, Eliezer
4. The sign to show the servant which young girl was the right one for Abraham's son	D. Canaan
5. Land where Abraham's family lived	E. Jewelry, raiment, 10 camels
6. Gifts brought by the servant for the young maiden and her family	F. Rebekah
7. How the servant responded when God made his journey successful	<b>G.</b> He believed in God
8. Abraham did not want his son to marry a woman from this country	H. Isaac

Name:	Date:
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### WORD SEARCH FUN!

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Abraham relationship caravan master blessing Isaac commitment oath Sarah camel Eliezer maiden journey marriage Rebekah servant Canaan Haran veil prayer

#### ANSWER KEYS

- 1. Went to Abraham's country and family to find a wife for Abraham's son C
- 2. Abraham's son who needed a Godly wife H
- 3. Young girl who became the wife of Abraham's son F
- 4. The sign to show the servant which young girl was the right one for Abraham's son A
- 5. Land where Abraham's family lived B
- 6. Gifts brought by the servant for the young maiden and her family E
- 7. How the servant responded when God made his journey successful G
- 8. Abraham did not want his son to marry a woman from this country D

- A. She watered the camels
- B. Haran
- C. The servant, Eliezer
- D. Canaan
- E. Jewelry and ten camels
- F. Rebekah
- G. He believed in God
- H. Isaac

## **WORD SEARCH FUN!**

