

# The Broadmoor Bulletin

A Monthly Publication for the Christians at Broadmoor

July 2006

## Isaac, the Promised Son

### Good Things Come to Those Who Include God – Genesis 24

This month's bulletin is focusing on Isaac, and when we look at this particular chapter we often don't consider Isaac. Most times we look at the faith of Abraham's servant or the faith of Rebekah. While we can definitely see the faith and character of these people here, we also see something of Isaac's faith and character.

If one would turn in his Bible to Genesis chapter 24:1-4, he would find Abraham has grown old, Sarah has just died, and Abraham wants to insure that his son is married to a good girl from back home before he also dies. So Abraham entrusts his most faithful servant with this task. In verse 5, one will see that the servant, having doubts about the probability of success, asks Abraham about what should happen if he could not find a girl willing to come back with him. Abraham is confident that the Lord would give success to the mission. This is the first step to finding what one seeks. Even though the statistics were against him, Abraham trusted God to help him find that for which he was looking (vs. 7). Many times throughout these events one can see the careful planning by God. If one continues reading, he would find that the servant, having his doubts swept aside, went back to Abraham's homeland as commanded. There we once again see that God is still not left out of this important event. In verses 12-14, one can read the prayer of the servant for God's guidance. One will also notice that God did not deny Abraham's servant this request, but guided him through the process. In verses 15-20, we see that as Rebekah came to draw water she fulfilled the sign that the servant had asked of God. In verse 21, we see that even the servant was amazed at this point. It is almost as if he didn't really think that God would make his journey worthwhile. In verses 23-25, one will see the hospitality of Rebekah as she invites this total stranger into her family's home for the night after just meeting him. It is at this point that the servant of Abraham remembers what people so often forget today. In verses 26 and 27, one can read the prayer of thanks that the servant offers to God. After hearing this prayer and understanding who this man was, Rebekah ran to tell her family about him. In verses 29-53, the servant and Rebekah's family discuss arrangements and dowry, and in verse 58 Rebekah is asked to make a choice. She chose to go with Abraham's servant.

(Continued on page 2)

### The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

"Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in every way" (Gen. 24:1). All of his life, Abraham trusted the Lord, living by faith. In return, God abundantly blessed Abraham. As Abraham neared the end of his life, his attention turned toward his family. He sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac from his homeland. Genesis 24 gives the account of the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah and it provides another example of the necessity of faith and the provision of the Lord. Notice the characters that played a role in this story.

- **Abraham.** Abraham had given his life to attaining the promises of God. In his old age, he made provision so that his son could continue in those same promises. Abraham saw the importance of a godly wife and a good environment. He sought a wife for his son from his homeland instead of the daughters of the land of Canaan (v. 3-4). Furthermore, Abraham insisted that the couple reside in the Promised Land, not the land from which Abraham was called (v. 6-8).
- **Abraham's Servant.** Abraham's servant accepted the responsibility his master gave to him, swearing an oath to fulfill his duty (v. 9). After traversing the long journey to Abraham's homeland, the servant prayed to the Lord, requesting success for his master (v. 12-14). After God answered his prayer by sending Rebekah, he bowed low and worshipped (v. 26-27). Abraham's servant was a faithful and godly man.
- **Bethuel and Laban.** Rebekah's family welcomed Abraham's servant, practicing hospitality for the traveling stranger (v. 28-33). When Bethuel was informed that Rebekah had been chosen by the Lord, he gladly gave his daughter to be married (v. 50-51).
- **Rebekah.** The young woman named Rebekah was a diligent worker. She was busy doing chores when she came upon Abraham's servant (v. 15-16). She extended kindness to the traveler, giving her time, energy and resources (v. 17-21). The text provides an indicator of her pure character, stating that she had not had relations with a man (v. 16). When the proposal was offered, she complied and traveled to a foreign land to be the wife of Isaac.
- **Isaac.** Back home, Isaac was in the field when he saw some people returning from a journey. When his father's servant informed him of what happened, he took Rebekah to be his wife. Isaac quickly realized the blessing of marriage. He loved Rebekah, and she was a comfort to him after his mother's death (v. 67).

(Continued on page 3)

## The Land of Canaan

In Genesis 26:4, God makes three promises to Isaac, the same promises He gave to Abraham, "I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven, I will give to your descendants all these lands, and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed." The land which the Lord would give to the descendants of Isaac was the land of Canaan. Canaan spread from the Jordan River on the east to the Mediterranean Sea on the west and from Phoenicia on the north to the River of Egypt on the south. Canaan was very lush and fertile in some places (Numbers 13:27), but elsewhere it was dry and mountainous.

Before the Israelite conquest, Canaan was inhabited by numerous tribes of people known as the Canaanites. The Canaanite civilization was at its height from 2000 B.C. to 1500 B.C., when Canaan was conquered by the Egyptians. The Canaanites lived in walled cities which were each ruled by a separate king. The Canaanite city-states, like the Sumerian city-states, had several social classes ranging from the kings and nobles to the common working class to peasants. Most Canaanites were farmers, but others were craftsmen and priests. The Canaanites were the first people to develop an alphabet. It consisted of cuneiform markings.

The Canaanites worshiped over 70 gods and goddesses. The chief god was El, but he appointed Baal king of the gods. Baal was the son of El's brother Dagon, and he was the god of fertility and storms. El's wife Asherah was a prominent goddess, as were Ashtoreth and Anath. Priests and priestesses were employed to keep records, sing, sculpt idols, and make sacrifices. The Canaanites offered both animal and human sacrifices to their gods. This is the environment in which Abraham and Isaac lived, challenging them to remain faithful to the true God.

**Evan Booher**

### Some Summertime Reminders

1. Before you leave on vacation, check a directory such as [www.goodfight.com](http://www.goodfight.com) to find a congregation near your vacation destination. Visit their website or call for service times or directions. Check the list of preachers we support to see if any of them are working near your destination.
2. If you are scheduled to teach or serve while you will be gone, be sure to arrange for someone to take your place.
3. Be sure to give an extra contribution before or after your trip to make up for the time you will be gone.
4. Make time for personal and family Bible study while you are away from home.

74.1

### On Time?

Many of our habits we learned while young in our parents' house. In my case, my Dad was always one that wanted to always be early to any planned event, but especially church services. If we weren't thirty minutes early, then he thought we were late. At times that seemed somewhat silly, but I must admit that I have a similar inclination even now. So it seems a little puzzling to me why it is that some folks always seem to arrive at just the last minute. It is not as if the time of services keeps changing and we have to remember when it is that the church assembles.

Now in one sense it makes no difference if we arrive 15 minutes ahead or 15 seconds ahead; both of us will be there for the common worship. However, in practice, something always happens unexpectedly that may make our arrival a little later than expected. So instead of being a little early, we are now a little late. And everyone sees it.

Besides the example we set and besides the impression we leave that the assembling may not be that important, think of the good that we could do that we can't if we are late. Examples are the encouraging word to the elderly sister (who by the way found a way to be there early), the expression of concern to the troubled brother, or simply the moment of reflection to prepare one's mind to worship the God of the Universe. But I must be there early if... (and please don't try to blame it on the kids.)

**Curtis Byers**

## Good Things Come to Those Who Include God - Genesis 24

(Continued from page 1)

Now in these final six verses, one can see what was mentioned in the introduction. In verse 63 one reads that Isaac separated himself from the others to meditate in the evening. When he knew he was about to marry a girl that he had never met and did not know how long it would be before the servant returned, he was praying and meditating. He was not letting worry or doubt overcome him. When Rebekah knew that the man sitting in the field was Isaac, she covered herself with a veil. Understand that Isaac is marrying a girl he does not know and a girl he has not seen. These things did not hinder Isaac though. When he was told the story of events that led the servant to Rebekah, he accepted it as God's will. Unlike many marriages today which seem to stop before they start, Isaac and Rebekah's marriage lasted their whole life. I submit to you that the only reason this marriage lasted was because both Isaac and Rebekah were committed to making it last knowing that it was God's will. One can definitely see how this series of events shows Isaac's great faith and character.

**Jonathan Dalton**

## ?? Did You Know??

???

1. The name Isaac means “he laughs”. (Genesis 21:6)
2. Isaac was 40 when he became a husband and 60 when he became a father. (Genesis 25:20, 24 – 26)
3. Rebekah was not only Isaac’s wife; she was also his cousin. (Genesis 24:15)
4. Isaac lived longer than Abraham, Jacob, or Joseph. He was 180 when he died. (Genesis 35:27 – 29)
5. Canaan is named after the fine purple dye manufactured there.

Adam Booher

## Isaac – God Keeps His Promises

In Isaac, we see a reminder that God keeps His promises. The situation appeared rather bleak from a human perspective. When Abraham was 75, God had promised to make him a great nation. (Genesis 12:1 – 4) When Abraham was 99, God told him that he and Sarah would have a son through whom God would fulfill the promise given 24 years prior. When Abraham heard God’s message, he laughed at the thought of his having a child with Sarah at their advanced ages. He asked the Lord if perhaps Ishmael could be the son through whom God would send his blessing. However, God wanted to stretch Abraham’s faith. (Genesis 17:17 – 19)

When the three visitors repeated this message, Sarah also laughed. The response from the Lord was, “Is anything too difficult for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14) Isaac’s name probably served as a reminder to Abraham and Sarah for the rest of their days that God can accomplish what seems unbelievable to men. Perhaps this thought bolstered Abraham’s faith when he faced the heart-wrenching task of sacrificing his promised son in the land of Moriah.

No matter how unlikely the situation may seem, God can and will keep His promises. He often uses unconventional means, such as with the capturing of Jericho or the battle between David and Goliath, so that it is evident that He is the one who provided the blessing. When Moses gave his farewell address to the Israelites in the book of Deuteronomy, he reminded them over and over again that God would keep His promises. We need to be like Abraham, fully assured that God is able to perform what He has promised. (Romans 4:18 – 21) “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful”. (Hebrews 10:23)

Gilbert Booher

## The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

(Continued from page 1)

- *God*. It is not easy to specify exactly how God works in every circumstance, but that he does work can clearly be seen in this account. While the servant of Abraham was still praying, his request was answered by God (v. 15). Rebekah appeared and she possessed a kind and gentle spirit. The Lord hears the prayers of those seeking godly mates.

Although customs have changed, many of the same principles of Genesis 24 apply to those seeking a spouse today. Marriage is a serious commitment, and it should not be taken lightly. Diligent prayer should be given to the Lord to find a godly mate. Having prayed, one should make every effort to find someone that is striving to please God. In marriage, love and comfort should mutually reside between two people that have become one flesh.

Jeremy Sweets

### Broadmoor Has a New Website!

[www.broadmoorchurch.com](http://www.broadmoorchurch.com)

The church is a spiritual institution, involved in spreading the gospel and edifying the saints (1 Thess. 1:8; Eph. 4:16). We need to give every effort to enlarge the borders of the kingdom and build stronger Christians. That is what God wants us to do. There are many ways to accomplish these goals. The internet provides a new and exciting opportunity to do the Lord’s work in this regard.

On the website, you can find ...

- *Information about us*. There are articles that tell about the Church of Christ – its undenominational nature, its work and organization. Visitors can see a list of our elders, deacons and preachers.
- *Information about our services*. The website contains the times of services and a few statements on what to expect when you come to worship with us. Pictures of the building, directions and a map are available. Users can get driving directions from any location.
- *Information for members*. There is a great deal of information that will be useful for the members. The site contains the monthly men’s work list, bible class material, and addresses.
- *Opportunities for Bible Study*. The website contains an article on what one must do in order to be saved. There are also some PowerPoint slides of sermons and links to useful Bible study resources. Users can contact us and set up a personal Bible study if they choose.

We’ve already had one e-mail inquiry from a non-member, and we look forward to receiving more. Continue to pray for more opportunities to spread the gospel. Also note that the website is a work in progress. We plan to add additional features in the near future including correspondence courses and a daily Bible reading schedule. Check it out, and let us know what you think. If you have any comments or suggestions for improvement, contact one of the elders, Kevin Stinson, or Jeremy Sweets.