

Rebekah

The daughter of Bethuel, Abraham's nephew [Genesis 22:23] and the wife of Isaac.

The account of Rebekah's life strongly emphasises the guidance and over-ruling providence of the Creator God.

Abraham sent his chief steward, probably Eliezer, to his home-country to seek a wife for his son, [Genesis 24:1-9].

The steward prayed to God and was led directly to Rebekah, [Genesis 24:10-14].

Eliezer was simply asking God to show him a woman with an attitude of service, someone who would go beyond the expected, which was to offer drink to any passing traveller.

Genesis 24:15-25 [New King James] *“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. 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. 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. And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not. 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, and 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.’”*

Rebekah, as we would say today “ticked all the boxes.”

Eliezer did **not** forget to thank the Creator God for answering his simple prayer to enable him to be of service to his master, [Genesis 24:26].

Rebekah had physical beauty but Eliezer was looking for inner beauty of character and he found it in Rebekah.

Rebekah ran home to tell her experience at the well to her family.

Eliezer waited until he received an official invitation from the family of Rebekah, then following her brother Laban home gave the family the full reason for his journey made on his master's behalf, [Genesis 24:28-49].

Genesis 24:50-61 [New King James] *“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.’ 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. 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.’ 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.’ 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.”

Again we see the hand of the Creator God guiding the life of Rebekah.

Genesis 24:62-67 [New King James] *“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.”*

Again the record of Rebekah’s character shows her humility and serving attitude.

Rebekah was an initiator, when she saw a need she took action, even if that action was not always right.

Several events help us to see how initiative can be misdirected.

Rebekah was aware that God’s plan would be channelled through Jacob, not Esau [**Genesis 25:23**].

So not only did Jacob become her favourite son, she actually planned ways to ensure he would overshadow his older twin.

Meanwhile Isaac preferred Esau [**Genesis 25:28**], this created a conflict between the couple.

This rift was so strong that Rebekah felt justified in deceiving her husband when the time came to bless the sons, and her ingenious plan was carried out to perfection, [**Genesis 27:1-30**].

Most of the time we try to justify the things we choose to do. Often we try to add God’s approval to our actions.

While it is true that our actions will not spoil God’s plan, it is also true that we are personally responsible for what we do and must be always cautious about our motives.

Are we always willing to set aside any plan, if the principles and the commandments of God are against the action?

Initiative and action are admirable and right when they are controlled by God’s Wisdom, that is His Word, the Christian Bible.

Two additional lessons we can learn from the life of Rebekah, God can and does use even our mistakes in His plan for our life.

Parental favouritism always hurts family unity.