

# 10. THE SON OF PROMISE

**Memory Verse:** “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32

## SUNDAY

### Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1–3)

**W**hile Abraham was quietly sleeping one night, he suddenly heard a voice that he had heard many times before. Whose voice was it, and what did He say? **Genesis 22:1, 2.** ☐

Abraham’s heart must have been filled with anguish as he listened. He knew he hadn’t been dreaming. But how could he possibly obey what God had just told



him to do? When he went outside and looked up at the stars, they reminded him of God’s promise about Isaac. He fell to the ground and prayed for God to tell him if that was really what He meant. But God told him no more.

He went to where Isaac was soundly sleeping, and looked at him. Then, trembling as he turned away, he went to where Sarah was sleeping. No, he must not tell her,

because she would surely try to keep him from obeying God.

Abraham wakened two of his servants. “God has told me to make a special sacrifice in the land of Moriah,” he told them. “We’ll leave at once, so load a donkey with the things we will need.”

Isaac had been on trips like this with his father before, and he enjoyed them. So, when his father wakened him, he dressed quickly. He had no idea of how different this sacrifice would be, and Abraham couldn’t bear to tell him yet.

It was probably still dark as the little group quietly left the camp. As they walked hour after hour, Abraham’s heart got heavier and heavier. Oh, if only God would speak to him again, and say he didn’t have to do this terrible thing!

Satan was tormenting him, too. “Offering humans as sacrifices is what the heathen do. It’s wrong! One of God’s own commandments says, ‘Thou shalt not kill.’” But Abraham knew Satan was tempting him, and he refused to doubt God.

That first day seemed to be the longest day in his whole life. That night, he prayed all night, hoping to hear God speak; but no voice came. And nothing changed as another day and night dragged by.

**Apply it:** Is it always easy to obey God? Is God always trustworthy, even if we don’t understand all

the reasons why? **Proverbs 3:5, 6.** ☐

## MONDAY

### The Biggest Test (Genesis 22:4–19)

**F**inally, on the third day, Abraham could see Mount Moriah in the distance; and the bright, glowing cloud hanging over it left no doubt that he was obeying God. What did he tell his servants to do? **Genesis 22:5.** ☐

As Abraham and Isaac climbed the mountain, Isaac finally asked the question Abraham had been dreading. **Verses 7, 8.** ☐


When they reached the place where he was to build the altar, Abraham finally had to tell Isaac what God had said he must do. At first, Isaac was shocked and terrified. He was a strong young man, and could easily have turned and gone back home; but because he had learned to trust God, as well as his father, he told Abraham to obey God.

Finally, everything was ready.


Isaac lay quietly on the altar. Abraham lifted the knife. But suddenly, everything changed. Read **verses 10–12.** ☐

It isn’t hard to imagine what happened next. Abraham and Isaac were probably both



crying for joy as they hugged each other. In their minds, it was as if Abraham had actually killed his precious son, and Isaac had actually died; for they were preparing to do it, and but for God's voice, it would have happened. God had given Abraham the hardest test possible, and he had passed the test. Did God provide a sacrifice? **Verses 13, 14.** 

People who obey God's law by His help, however hard they are tested, are being like Abraham was. No wonder he is called the father of the faithful!

Abraham was so sure God would keep His promises about Isaac, he believed He could and would raise his son from death. **Hebrews 11:6, 17–19.** 

**Apply it:** When the angels saw what Abraham and Isaac did on Mount Moriah that day, they better understood God's amazing plan to save us from sin.

And as we think of how Abraham felt about sacrificing his son, we better understand the terrible sacrifice God the Father made by giving *His* only precious Son to die a horrible death. And though it was very hard, They were willing because of Their love for us.


But when our sins killed Jesus, He couldn't see His loving Father, like Isaac saw his loving father. And no one took His place, like a ram took Isaac's place on the altar at Mount Moriah. That ram represented Jesus, who took our place on the cross at Mount Calvary.




Aren't you thankful for God's wonderful love for every one of us?

## TUESDAY

### Promises Made (Genesis 23; 24:1–9)

**I**t was a sad day when Sarah, Abraham's lovely wife and Isaac's precious mother died. Since she was ninety years old when Isaac was born; how old was Isaac when she died? **Genesis 23:1, 2.** 

Abraham still didn't own any land in Caanan—not even a place in which to bury Sarah. The story of how he bought a burial place for her is interesting. Read it in **verses 3–20.** 

Abraham felt that before he died he must find a good wife for Isaac. In those days, godly parents were responsible for making sure their children would have happy, godly homes of their own.


Did that mean that a child always had to marry the person their parents picked out? No. It meant that parents helped them find and marry someone they loved and who also loved and obeyed God.

As Abraham thought of the idol-worshipping Canaanite women, he knew none of them could ever make a good wife for Isaac, who would become the next patriarch and father of the faithful.


Then he thought of his brother Nahor, whose family still believed and worshiped the true God, even though they mixed in some idol worship, as well. Perhaps someone there would make the right kind of



home where only God would be worshiped.


Abraham called Eliezer, his most faithful, wise, and godly servant; and he asked him to make some very important promises. What were those promises? **Genesis 24:2–9.** 


Eliezer must have taken a deep breath and started praying as soon as he made these promises. It was a big responsibility his master had given him. And he didn't waste any time as he prepared to carry out his master's wishes.

**Apply it:** Can a home be a happy place if the people there do not worship only God? **Psalms 127:1.** 

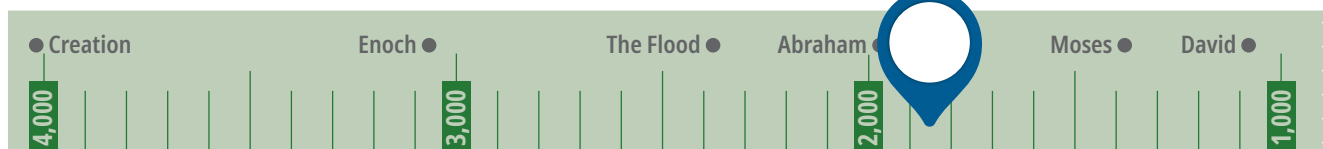
## WEDNESDAY

### Promises Kept (Genesis 24:10–49)

**E**liezer would need camels to ride on and to carry supplies the hundreds of miles they would travel. They would take beautiful, costly presents to the bride and her family, and they would bring her and her things back to Canaan. How many camels did Eliezer take with him? **Genesis 24:10.** 

Eliezer stopped his caravan close to a well outside of the city of Nahor. He had been praying, but now he felt he needed a special sign to be sure he was following God's plan. What was the sign he asked for? **Verses 12–14.** 

As Eliezer prayed, he watched the women coming to the well to draw water. He had hardly finished his prayer when he noticed a beautiful young woman filling her pitcher. She was different from the



rest because of her kind, courteous manners.

Eliezer watched her; and as she came from the well, he asked for a drink from the pitcher she carried on her shoulder. After she



had given him a drink, what did she do? **Verses 19, 20.** ☐

Thirsty camels can drink a lot of water, but this beautiful, helpful young woman didn't stop carrying pitchers of water until all the camels had finished drinking. Eliezer was very pleased; and when he asked her about her family, he could hardly believe what she told him. **Verses 23–26.** ☐

Everything happened very quickly after that. The young woman's name was Rebekah, and her father was the son of Abraham's brother.

God had led Eliezer to exactly where he wanted to be. Oh, how thankful he was! And how happy Rebekah's family was to see Eliezer and get news about Abraham!

In those days, all children learned to work, even if they were from wealthy families with many servants. So, Rebekah's brother, Laban, helped care for the camels; and soon, a good meal was ready for everyone.

But Eliezer said that before eating, he wanted to tell the family why he had made the long

### 1. Bible math

The *World Book Encyclopedia* says that a camel can drink up to 50 gallons of water a day. If Eliezer's camels were thirsty and drank 50 gallons of water each, how much water did Rebekah draw for them?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Number of camels Abraham sent with Eliezer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Number of gallons that each camel could drink
- \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate number of gallons of water Rebekah drew from the well for the camels

### 2. True or false?

- T / F Trusting God completely is important.
- T / F Obeying God quickly is important.
- T / F Abraham was tested to see if he would trust and obey God.
- T / F Isaac was tested to see if he would trust and obey God.

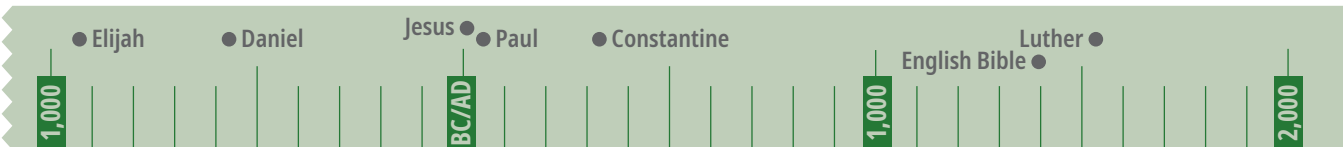
### 3. Matching (See Genesis 24:24.)

LABAN	Rebekah's father
NAHOR	Rebekah's brother
MILCAH	Rebekah's grandfather
BETHUEL	Rebekah's grandmother


### 4. Find the hidden words.

- Rebekah
- Nahor
- Bethuel
- Milcah
- Laban
- Abraham
- Eliezer
- Isaac
- Sarah
- Keturah
- Deborah

G	R	F	S	D	O	V	P	T	K	S	V	E
S	T	H	A	R	U	T	E	K	J	E	H	U
C	A	C	R	S	J	C	M	Q	D	I	K	A
J	I	S	A	A	C	B	O	I	G	P	A	B
T	D	I	H	A	N	A	B	A	L	N	B	J
C	J	A	Z	I	S	T	P	B	E	C	R	P
K	R	Y	N	A	H	O	R	P	U	Z	A	J
M	D	E	B	O	R	A	H	M	H	N	H	H
X	T	O	Z	D	Z	I	K	O	T	U	A	L
D	C	S	L	E	Q	L	W	E	E	M	M	E
A	G	W	F	Y	I	H	B	G	B	I	I	O
Y	H	L	X	N	K	L	F	U	M	E	Z	P
D	E	K	W	T	Z	E	E	T	A	N	R	A




journey to find them. So the family agreed, and they listened carefully as he talked.


**Apply it:** Do you want to be kind like Rebekah was—even if it means hard work? **Proverbs 20:11.** 

## THURSDAY

### Rebekah Agrees (Genesis 24:50–61)

**E**liezer told Rebekah’s family about Abraham and Isaac, and he explained why it was important for him to have a wife who loved and obeyed God. When he told them how his prayer was answered, Rebekah must have been surprised. To think that God had chosen her to be the mother of a great nation! How wonderful! But would her family agree to let her go? What did they say? **Genesis 24:49–51.** 

How relieved Eliezer must have been. Once more he thanked God for making everything work out so perfectly. Then they ate supper and went to bed.

Rebekah’s family wanted Eliezer to wait at least ten days before starting back to Canaan, but the very next morning he told them he wanted to leave right away. “Are you willing?” the family asked Rebekah. What did she tell them? **Verses 57, 58.** 

There must have been a lot of hurry as everyone helped Rebekah pack for the trip. Her family sent Deborah, her nurse, and some maidservants with her.

Finally, everything was ready, and they all said good-by. Eliezer and the family probably prayed that they would have a safe trip. Then the ten-camel caravan started the 500-mile trip back to Abraham’s camp in Canaan.

As they rode along on their

camels, day after day, perhaps Eliezer told Rebekah stories about what had happened to Abraham and Sarah after they left Haran and moved to Canaan. And maybe he told her about Lot and the sad things that happened to him because of the wrong choices he made.

Eliezer probably told her stories about Isaac, the miracle son she would soon marry. As she listened, she could tell that he was a fine, godly man, and she probably counted the days until they would meet each other.

**Apply it:** Tell about a time that God has answered your prayer.


## FRIDAY


### A Bride for Isaac


**E**liezer’s ten-camel caravan had been traveling many days. Now they were nearing Abraham’s large camp with Rebekah, Isaac’s bride. How excited she must have been! Isaac must have been excited, too. He had been away caring for his father’s flocks, but he had returned to the camp to wait for the caravan to arrive.

One evening while Isaac was waiting, he took a quiet walk in a field nearby. Perhaps he thought about Ishmael, his half brother. Though Abraham had faithfully taught him about God and the meaning of the daily sacrifices, Ishmael had married an idol-worshiper; and his wife had influenced him away from God. Isaac was thankful that his father was so careful about helping find a good wife for him.

Then, in the distance, Isaac saw the caravan coming. He was probably both thankful and excited. He would soon know whether Eliezer had found a wife for him. If so,

what would she be like? **Genesis 24:63.** 


At the same time, Rebekah saw Isaac walking in the field. “Who is that man walking alone in the field?” she asked Eliezer. When he told her, what did Rebekah immediately do? **Verses 64, 65.** 

Isaac listened as Eliezer told him all about the trip and how God had led and blessed him all the way. Rebekah was beautiful; but best of all, her heart and mind were beautiful as well. She and Isaac loved each other from the first. And, of course, Abraham was happy, too. Whose tent became hers? **Verses 66, 67.** 



The first verse in Genesis 25 might surprise you. Abraham lived thirty-eight years after Sarah died. He could have been lonely if he hadn’t decided to marry again. His new wife Keturah must have been a kind, godly lady. They had several children, and, of course, they kept Abraham from being lonely.

Before Abraham died, he gave gifts to all his other sons, sent them to other places to live, and gave everything he owned to Isaac (Genesis 25:6).

**Apply it:** Will God answer our prayers, and guide us, too? **Isaiah 65:24.** 

**References:** Genesis 22–24; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 147–155, 171–176