Bible/College Class Notes – God's Great Plans – Lesson 29 God's Plan for Finding Isaac's Wife.

This week we learn how Abraham, and Isaac faithfully followed God's way to find Isaac a Wife.

Abraham's servant said, "Blessed be the Lord God of my master Abraham ...

Who has led me to the house of my master's brethren". Genesis 24 v27

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Genesis 17v1-9, 15-21 (A reminder of God's promise)	
Monday	Genesis 24v1-16 (Abraham sends to find Isaac a wife)	
Tuesday	Genesis 24v17-32 (The Lord answers Eliezer's prayer)	
Wednesday	Genesis 24v33-49 (Rebekah is God's choice for Isaac)	
Thursday	Genesis 24v50-67 (Isaac marries Rebekah)	
Friday	Matthew 1v1-17 (The human lineage of Jesus Christ)	
Saturday	Ephesians 3v1-21 (The love of Christ passes all knowledge)	

Important Lesson for us today: The choosing of Isaac's wife may sound as if it was an 'arranged' marriage. It was not – They both loved God, and each other, and knew it was His will. Christians know that God has a plan for their lives, and He wants them to follow His principles in their life. An important life decision can be marriage, but remaining single and chaste is perfectly acceptable with God. For a Christian to be truly happy they must first be content with knowing the Lord as their Saviour whether single (like Paul) or married (Philippians 4v11). Being single is as great a blessing as being married. Yet if marriage is a Christian's calling, it is important to seek direction and guidance from God, and follow it obediently, or great unhappiness can follow. Of course, physical attraction, love and affections are involved, but a Christian should only marry a Christian (of the opposite sex) with the same beliefs.

Hymn 544 - A prayer to God for guidance.

- Be with me, Lord, where'er I go;
 Teach me what Thou wouldst have me do;
 Govern whate'er I think or say;
 Direct me in the narrow way.
- 3. Assist and teach me how to pray; Incline my nature to obey; What Thou abhorrest let me flee, And only love what pleases Thee.

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Abraham Obeys God's Rules to Find Isaac a Wife

• Background to Finding God's Choice of Isaac's Wife.

- o God promised Abraham that from him a nation would come, which numbered more than the sand of the sea or the stars of the sky, and through it a Saviour.
- Yet Abraham and Sarah were childless, and Sarah beyond childbearing age;
 God blessed their faithfulness, and Isaac was born to them in their old age.
- o Isaac now needed a wife; God provided so that all His promises would be kept.

• A Very Important Choice - Needing Prayer for God's Guidance.

- o Abraham, Isaac, and Eliezer prayed for God's guidance to find the right wife.
- o Faithful Abraham knew that Isaac's wife must come from his godly relatives back in Haran, and not from the local, idol-worshipping, Canaanites.
- o Patient, prayerful Isaac knew that he must stay in the Promised Land.
- o Eliezer, Abraham's steward (See Genesis 15v2), knew that God looks on the heart.

How could Eliezer Discover the One Who was God's Choice?

Arriving in Haran, he prayed that the woman who God had chosen, would come
to the well, show Christian kindness and willingness to serve by offering to draw
water for his very thirsty camels. Eliezer looked for this as a sign from God.

• God Answered Eliezer's Prayer Wonderfully.

- Rebekah, the unmarried daughter of Bethuel, Abraham's brother's son, came to the well to draw water.
- Eliezer only asked for a drink of water, but Rebekah showed her Christian spirit, offering to draw water for not only Eliezer but for all his camels, and kindly offered accommodation for Eliezer at her father's house.
- Eliezer knew that Rebekah was God's choice because all the test criteria had been met. He thanked the Lord for answering his prayer 'exceeding abundantly'.
- Rebekah, her father Bethuel, and Laban her brother, all acknowledged that this was God's Sovereign will and plan for her.
- $\circ\quad$ She obediently agreed to leave home immediately to become Isaac's wife.

• Isaac Prayerfully Awaits the Arrival of His Bride.

- He was out in the fields, in prayer, and saw Eliezer and Rebekah on the horizon.
- o Isaac welcomed Rebekah. She became his wife. He loved her and she loved him.
- o God's promise to Abraham continued to be kept through Isaac and Rebekah.

• God Will Guide Us Through Our Prayers If We Love and Obey Him.

- o If we love the Lord, then we will want to know and follow His plan for our lives because He has loved us and died on the cross to save us from the guilt of our sins.
- o "The love of Christ passeth (our) knowledge, He is able to do 'exceeding abundantly' above all we ask or think, according to His power" Ephesians 3v19-20.

"Be careful for nothing (do not worry); but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Philippians 4v5.