

Story 8:
A Wife for Isaac
Genesis 24

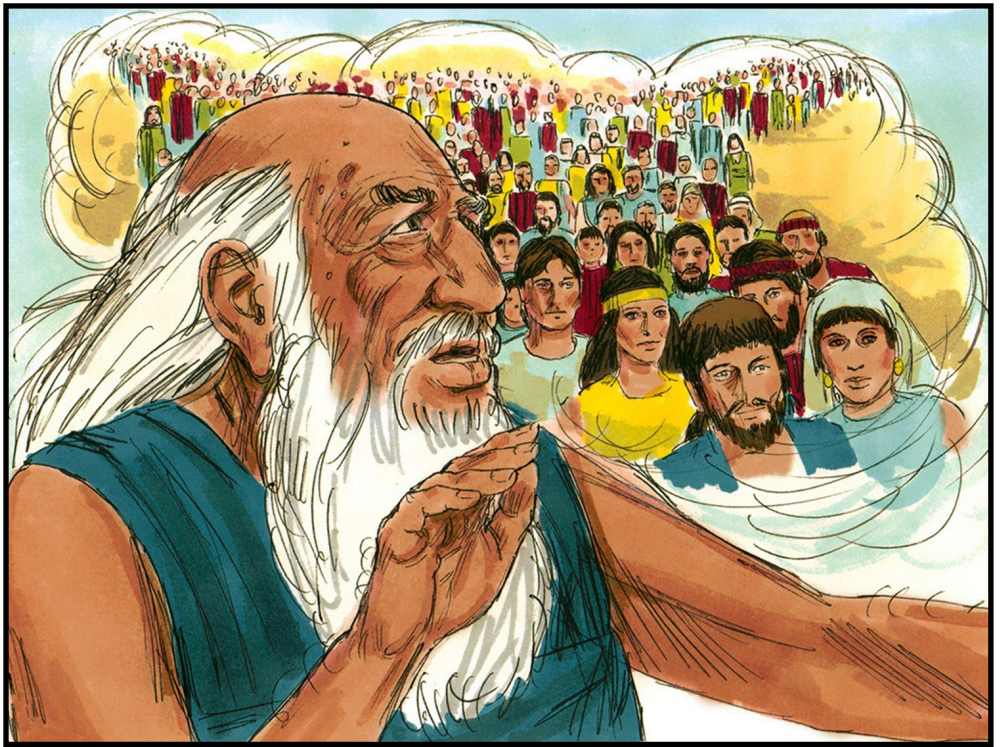


Story 8:

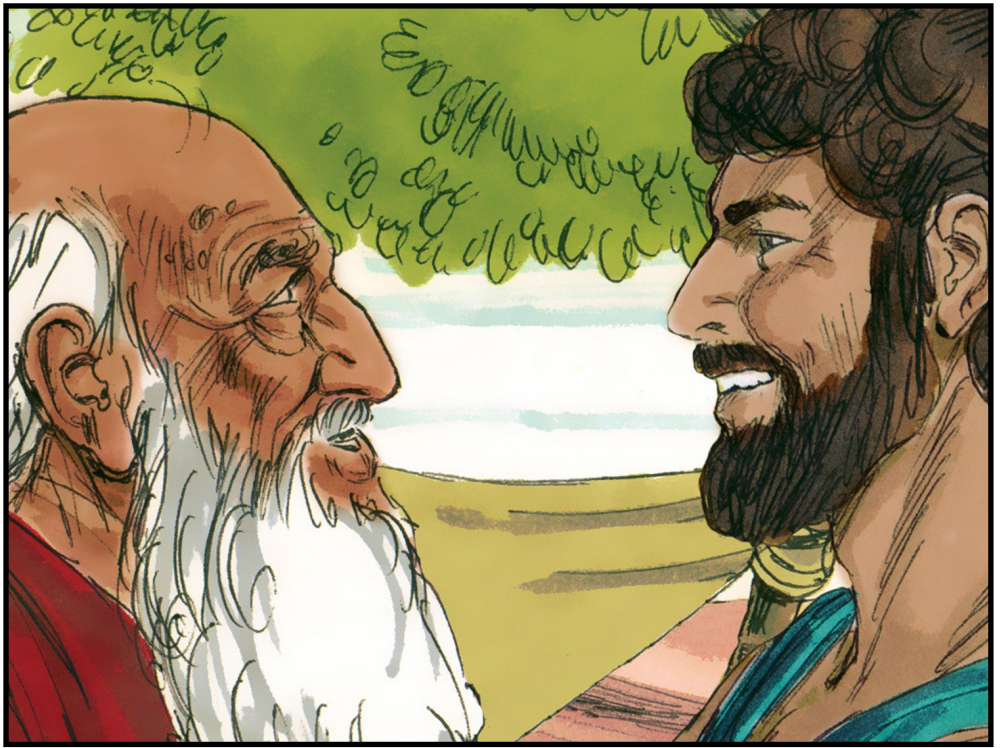
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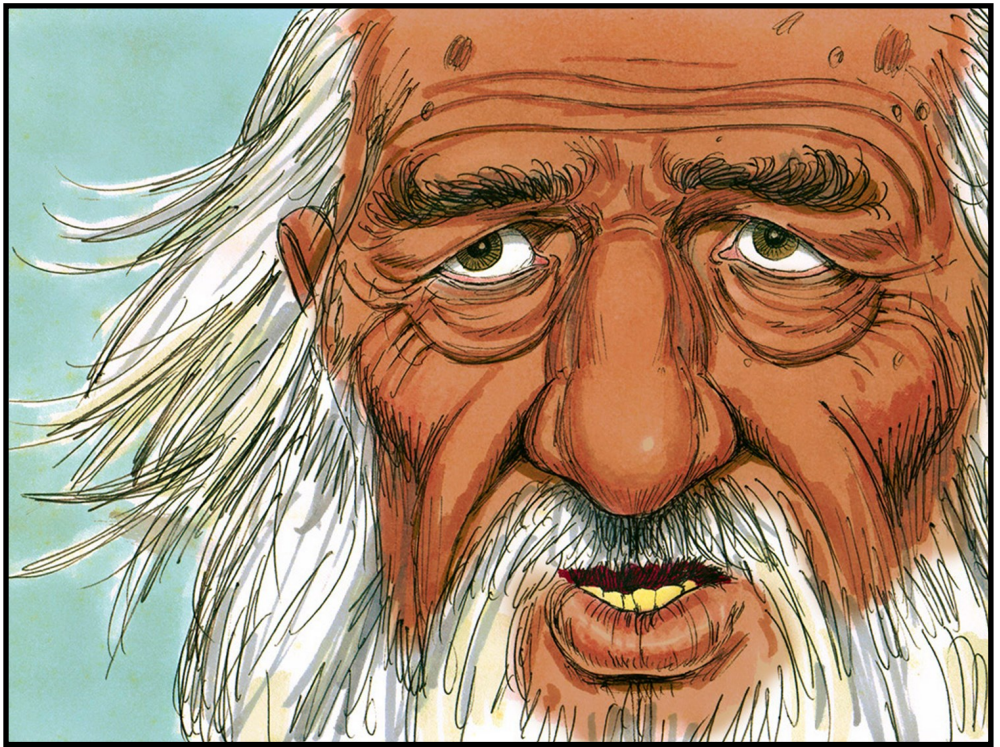
Abraham was very old when his wife Sarah died. Sarah lived to be 127 years old. He was very sad and cried over her. Abraham buried her in a cave near Mamre. He bought the land from a man named Ephron who was a Hittite.



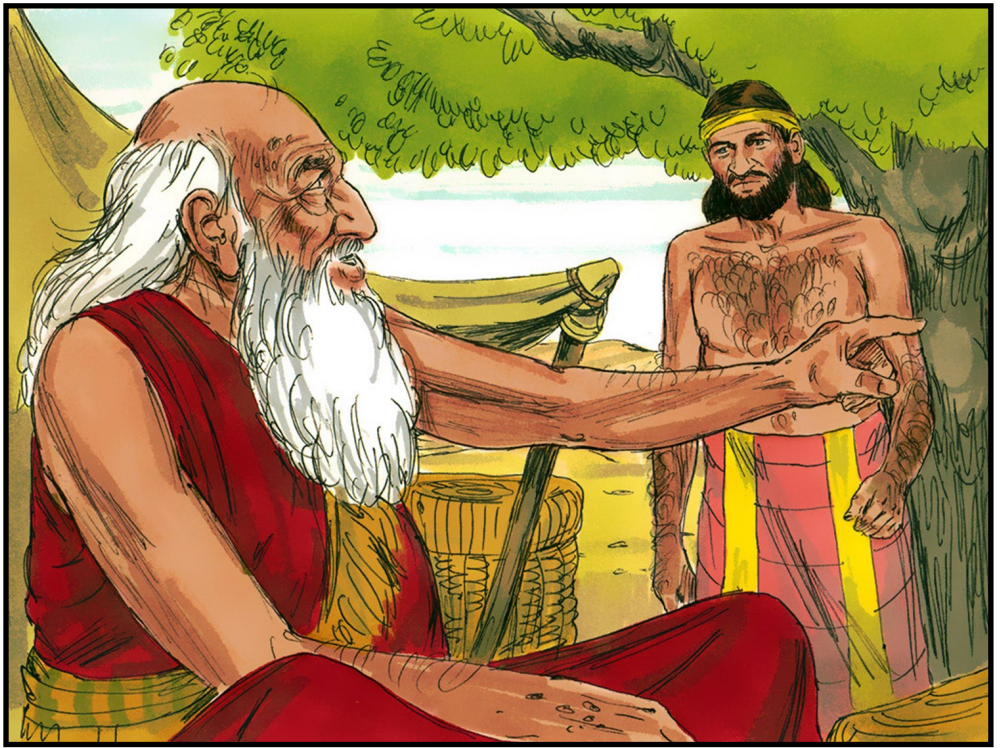
God had promised Abraham and Sarah that their descendants would become a great big nation. However, Abraham and Sarah grew too old to have children. Nevertheless, God did a wonderful miracle and allowed them to have a son named Isaac in their old age.



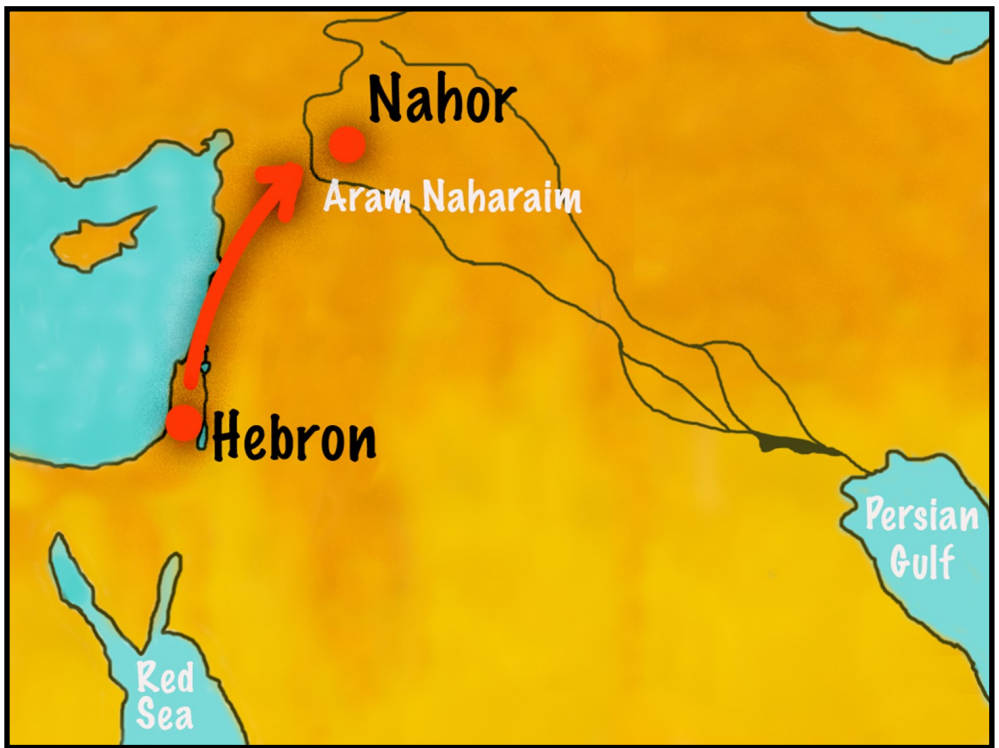
Isaac was now a young man. Abraham did not want Isaac to marry a wife from the Canaanite people who lived around them because the people who lived around them *did not* worship the one, true God.



Instead, Abraham wanted Isaac to have a wife from among his own people who *did* worship God. Abraham's people lived hundreds of miles away, but he did not want his son Isaac to go back to them since God had called their family to live in the land of Canaan.

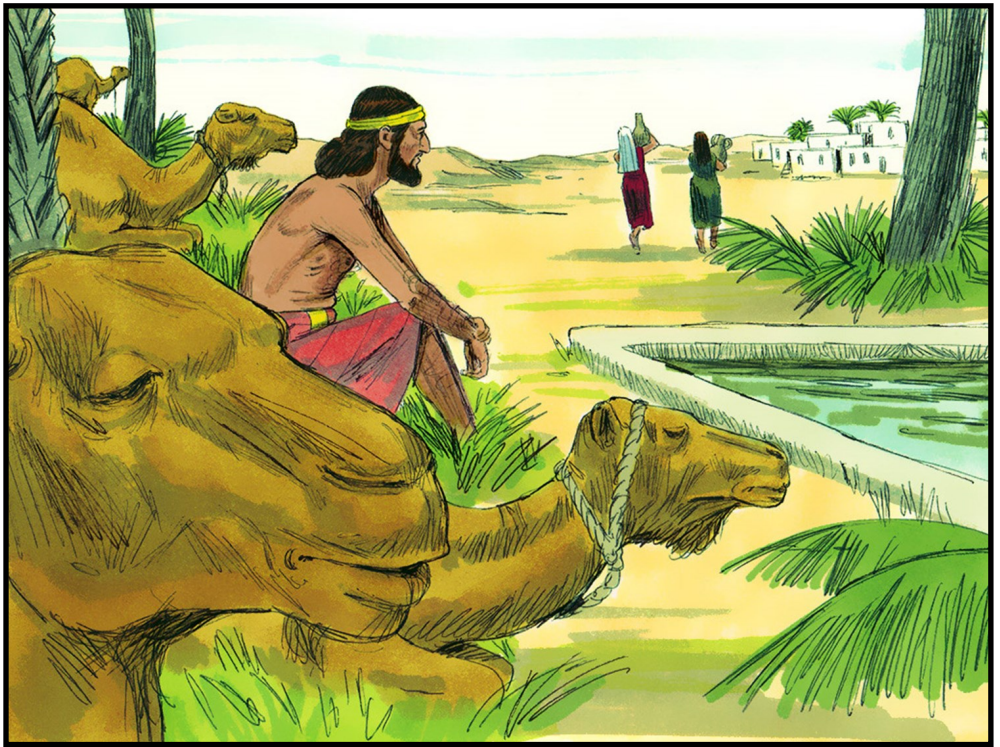


So, Abraham called his chief servant and said, “I want you to promise me that you will *not* get a wife for Isaac among the Canaanites who are living around us. Instead, I want you to travel to my home country and get a wife for Isaac amongst my relatives.

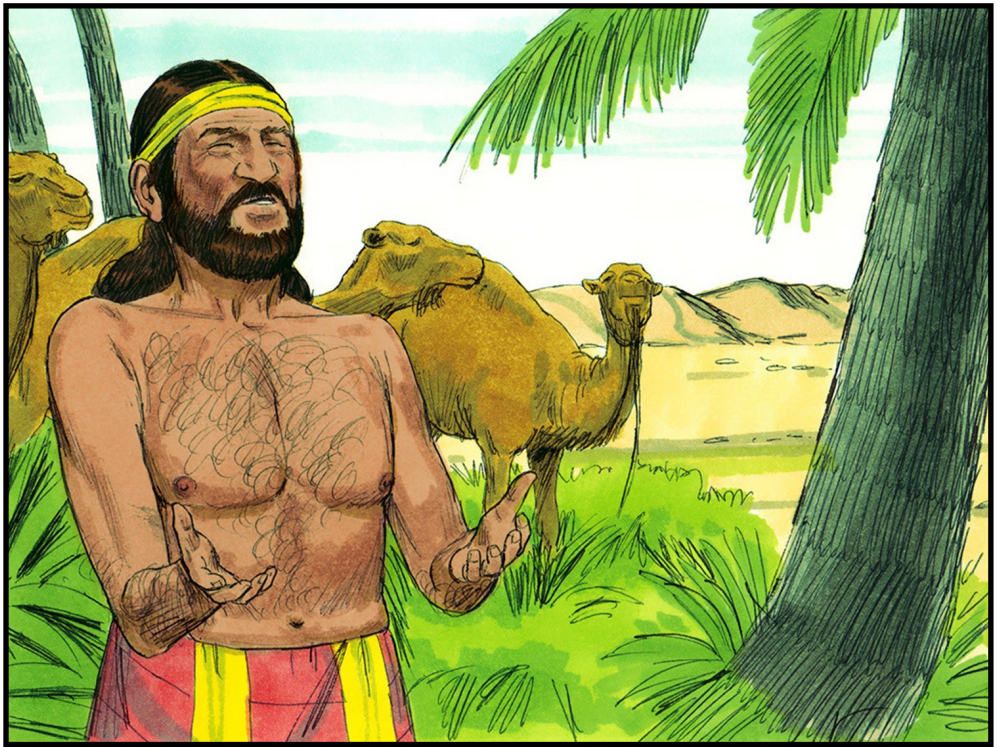


His servant asked, “What if she will not come back with me?”

Abraham replied, “Then you will be released from your promise.” The servant promised to obey all that he had been asked to do. He took with him ten camels loaded with all kinds of gifts from Abraham. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to Nahor.



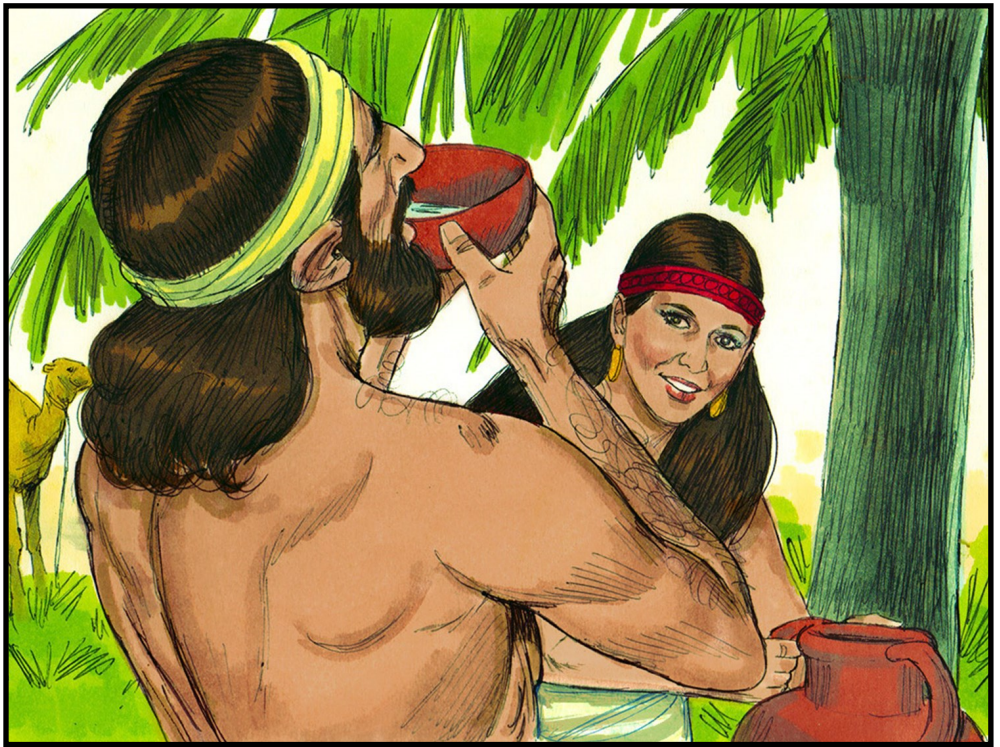
Once he arrived, the servant had his camels kneel down near the spring of water that was outside of the town. It was evening, the time of day that the women of the town would come to draw water.



The servant prayed to God, “LORD God, please give me success today in finding Isaac a wife. Please give me a sign so that I’ll know if there is a woman here that you have chosen. May it be that when I say to her, ‘May I please have a drink?’ that she replies, ‘Yes, and I’ll give some water to your camels too.’”



Before he had finished praying, a young woman named Rebekah showed up with a jar on her shoulder. She was very beautiful. She walked up to the spring and began filling her jar.



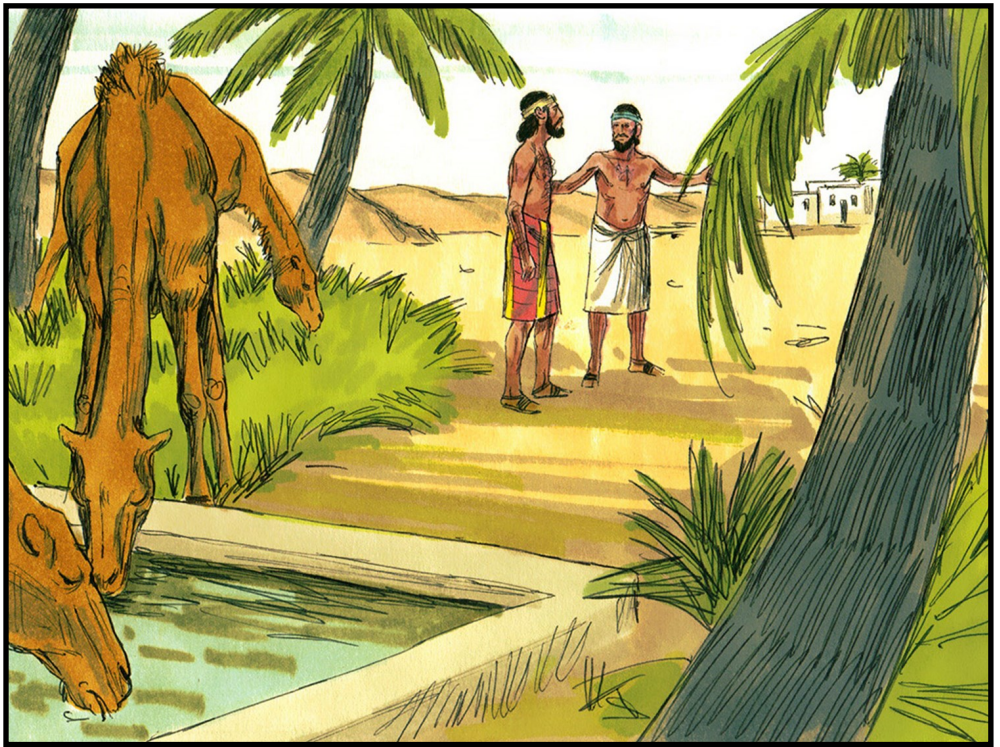
The servant hurried over to meet her. He asked, “May I please have some of the water from your jar?”

She replied, “Yes, here’s a drink for you sir.” After she had given him a drink, she continued, “I will also draw water for your camels too. I will give them a drink until they are full.”

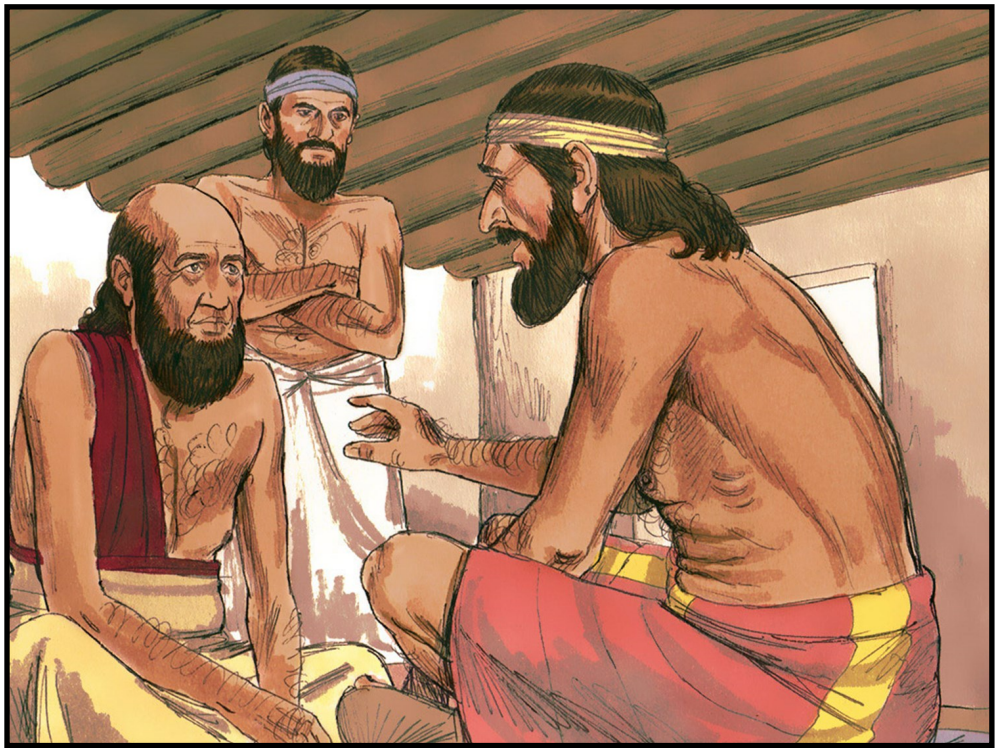


When the camels had finished drinking, the servant pulled out a gold nose ring and two gold bracelets. He asked, “Whose daughter are you? Is there room in your father’s house for me and my camels to spend the night?”

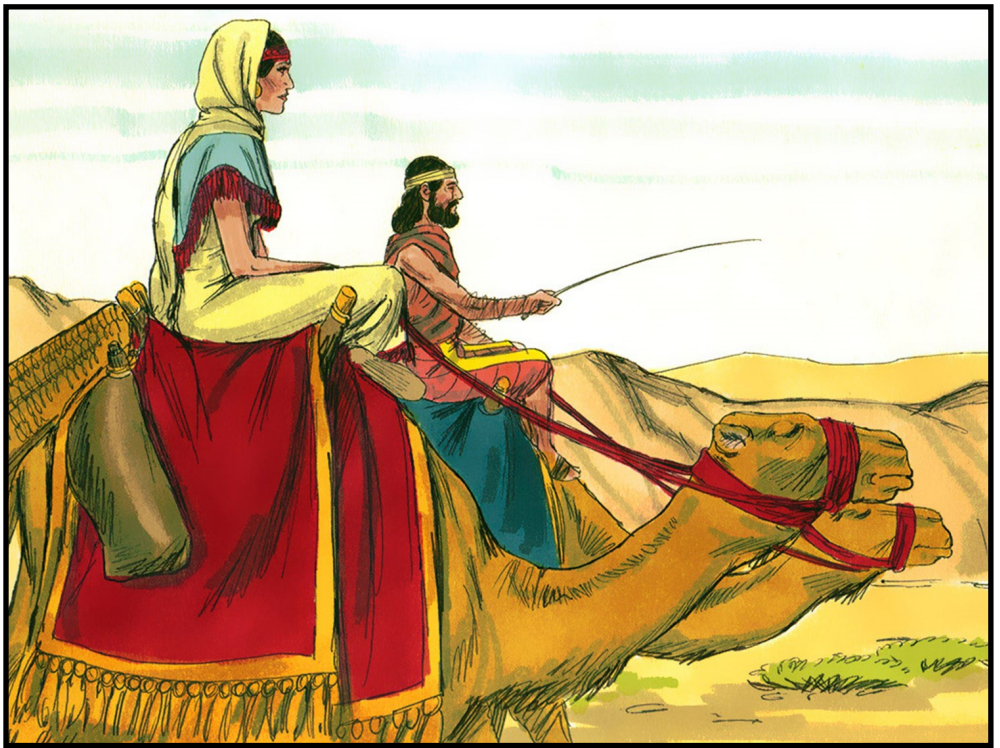
She replied, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, who is the son of Milcah and Nahor. Yes, we have food for your camels and a room for you to stay.”



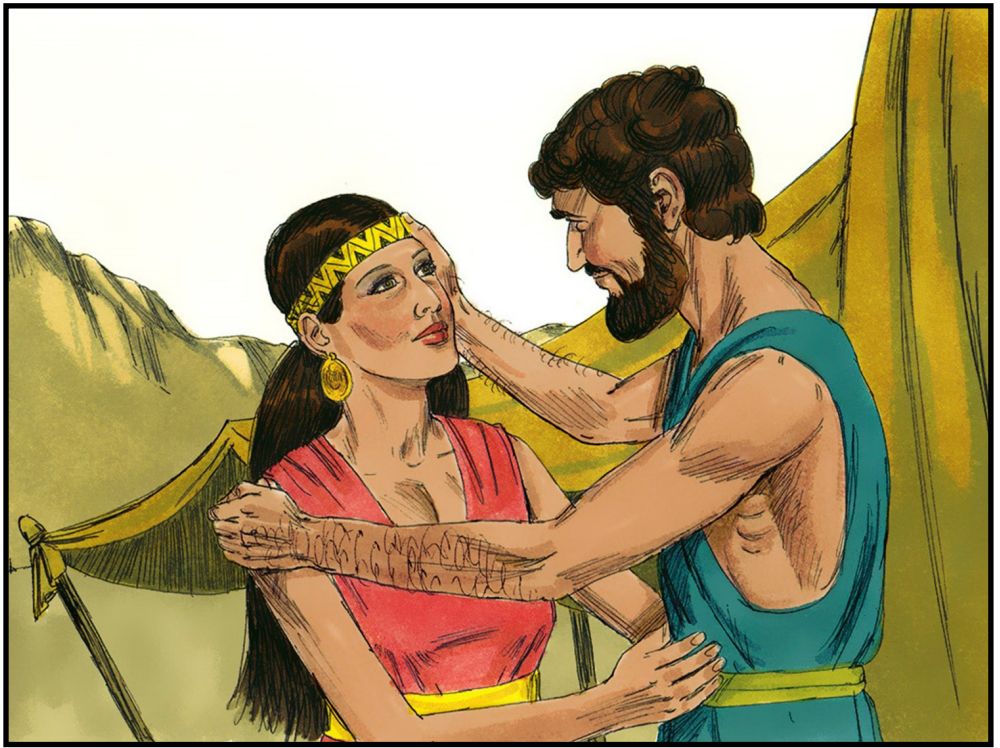
After the servant heard this, he bowed down and worshipped the LORD for answering his prayer. Rebekah also ran home and told her family about what had just happened. Her brother, Laban, returned to the spring and helped the servant bring the camels to their home.



Even though food was set before him, the servant chose not eat until he had told Rebekah's family why he had come and how God had answered his prayer. After hearing the story, Bethuel said, "This is from the LORD. Here is my daughter Rebekah. Take her, for she will become the wife of your master's son."



The servant gave gifts that he brought with him to the family. Rebekah's brother and mother wanted her to wait for 10 days before leaving, but the servant insisted that they leave the following morning. Rebekah said that she wanted to go, so she departed the next day with the him.



One night, Isaac went out to a field because he wanted to be alone. When he looked up, he saw some people on camels getting closer. It was his father's servant along with Rebekah. Isaac married her and she became his wife. He loved her very, very much.

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