

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

CAN I TRUST GOD?

RLJ-1756

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MAY 17, 2020

PART 8: ABRAHAM'S SELFISHNESS

Many of the faith heroes in the Bible had a shaky start. They were touched by God, grew in faith and reached a high plateau, only to lose ground and end up in a pitiful state. This was the case with Abraham.

BRIDE FOR ISAAC

Abraham knew that the people living in Canaan were deeply involved in idolatry and he knew Isaac would be led astray if he married a Canaanite woman. He was too old to travel – or simply didn't feel like making the journey – and so he sent his chief servant to find a wife for Isaac. **Genesis 24:1-4**

Although Abraham's servant is not named in this chapter, it is thought that his name was Eliezer. **Genesis 15:2**

Even if he found a woman, Eliezer was not sure that she would be willing to return with him and so Eliezer suggested that he take Isaac to Haran to convince the future bride. Abraham remembered how his father Terah had gotten stuck in Haran and vetoed the plan. **verses 5-8**

Abraham made Eliezer take an oath. **verse 9**

Abraham was extremely wealthy and Eliezer did not leave for Haran until he loaded the caravan with gold and silver. It is recorded that he went to the Mesopotamian city of Nahor. The Bible does not give any indication if this city was the same as Haran and scholars do not know either. It is plausible that Abraham's brother Nahor left Haran and founded a city which bore his name. The Bible doesn't reveal why Abraham's servant elected to travel to Nahor and stop there. The only explanation is that he arrived there by divine appointment. **verse 10**

PRAYER OF FAITH

Eliezer purposely stopped at the well outside the city, knowing that the women of the city would come to draw water for the evening meal toward the end of the day. Abraham's servant asked God to set up an appointment, that when he asked for water, the woman would also offer to provide water for his 10 camels as well.

A camel can drink about 30 gallons of water. This means that she would have to hoist up 300 gallons of water in a bucket that might have held one gallon. **verses 11-14**

The Holy Spirit gave the prayer to the servant, and at the same time, He moved on Rebekah to satisfy the thirst of the camels. **verses 15-20**

The servant was quiet while she repeatedly drew water for the camels – an exercise that may have taken two hours! Once Rebekah was finished, Eliezer asked her name and bestowed gifts of gold upon her. **verses 21-23**



When he found out that she was a great niece to Abraham, Eliezer with thankfulness began to praise and worship the Lord while Rebekah returned to her mother's house. **verses 24-28**

Rebekah's brother, Laban, was a conniver and a liar. When he saw the gold and the silver, he greedily offered Eliezer lodging. **verses 29-31**

THE PROPOSAL

According to the biblical account, Eliezer was a believer in God; he was not an idolater. He was confident that Rebekah was the woman God intended Isaac to marry. As a result, Eliezer started the proposal to the family as was the custom at that time. Eliezer knew that he was in God's will, the Lord would move upon Rebekah, and she would return home with him. **verses 32- 49**

ACCEPTANCE

Bethuel and his son, Laban, were not strong in their faith in God. When they saw the gold and silver, heard the story about watering the camels, and what Eliezer told them about Abraham, they were convinced this was an act of God. Did it do anything for them personally? No! They were impressed, but had zero interest in a personal relationship with God. **verses 50-51**

THE SEND OFF

Once Eliezer received Bethuel's permission to bring Rebecca home with him for Isaac, there was a party for the males and Rebekah was not present. Eliezer wanted to leave the next day but Rebekah's father, mother and brother wanted Eliezer to hang around for at least ten days, hoping he would unload more gifts on them. **verses 52-55**

When Eliezer insisted on leaving, they brought in Rebekah and asked her if she wanted to marry Isaac. This is ironic because Rebekah had previously not been part of the discussion. **verses 56-60**

THE CONSUMATION

The Bible does not mention any wedding feast when Rebekah finally arrived to Abraham's camp. We simply know that she was taken by Isaac into his mother's tent where they consummated the marriage. **verses 61-67**

LOSING THE ANOINTING

I have come to the conclusion Abraham lost all interest in God's plans once he made sure that he fulfilled his obligations. He lived the final 38 years doing his own thing.

He married again and had a number of children with his wife and concubines (slave women). Abraham had no future plans for this new set of children he fathered, nor did he show any interest in the welfare of the women who bore his children.

When he was close to dying, Abraham made sure that these women and children were sent eastward. Legend has it that his offspring reached India, where they created a new religion called Hinduism. DNA evidence proves that the Brahmas, the highest caste in India, are related to the twelve tribes of Israel.

Abraham trusted God to fulfill His promises and meet his needs, but Abraham had no interest in establishing an educational system that would ensure his offspring would be worshipers of God. He also had no desire to teach the nations living around him to abandon idolatry and turn to the true worship of God. **Genesis 25:1-8**

In the letter to the Hebrews, Paul wrote about the glory days of Abraham, but not how he ended his life. **Hebrews 11:8-10**

Abraham sought the city of God, but he had no interest in helping other people to find that city. The same can be said of Noah and King David. They trusted in God, but they were also selfish and failed to share their great faith with others.

Jesus stated that each Christian is to care for others, trust in God, and share the good news that the Son of man offers redemption to humanity. **Matthew 28:18-20**

Do you trust God? Are you sharing your trust in God with others?

SUMMARY

If you want to finish strong, be a soul winner and share your trust in God with others. **Proverbs 11:30**

Every unsaved human being is going to receive a final sentence at the Great White Throne Judgment prior to being thrown into the Lake of Fire. All the saved people will watch these proceedings and it will be very uncomfortable for most of us since we knew them. The condemned will scream and curse at us for not sharing the Gospel with them.

It is great to be able to trust God, but it is even greater if we use our faith to reach out to those around us. **Revelation 20:11-15**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?