

Genesis 23-24

Worldview: Don't Let Go. Let God. – Planning according to God's Word

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Php 2:12-13)

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"-- yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (Jas 4:13-15)

Part 1: The Death of Sarah

Sarah lived 127 years

1. Only mention of the age of a woman at death in Scripture.
2. Abraham was 75 when they left Haran – she is 10 years younger – that means they have been sojourners in the Promised Land for 62 years.

Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her (KJV “Abraham came to mourn for Sarah”)

1. Does not imply that they were in separate cities
2. See 24:67: Sarah had a separate living quarters as was custom

The discussion with the Hittites

1. Or the Hethites – from Heth, the son of Canaan, the son of Ham.
2. **Should we be surprised that Abram has lived as a “sojourner and foreigner” for 62 years in spite of having great wealth? Why or why not?**
3. Note the reputation of Abraham among the people – **does their response reflect they are a godly people? Why or why not?**
4. **What is the importance of Abraham buying the land instead of the Hittites simply giving him the land?**

Part 2: A Wife for Isaac

Abraham plans for the future in his old age

1. Abraham establishes two conditions of his servant – a) Isaac's wife cannot be a Canaanite and b) Isaac's wife must come to him – he cannot go back to Haran. **What is the significance of these two requirements?**

Questions: What plans for the future do Christians make? How do Philippians 2:12-13 and James 4:13-15 factor into how we plan?

2. When the servant arrives at his destination, he appeals to God to determine the woman whom he should select. The servant's request of God is very specific:

Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'--let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master." (Gen 24:14)

“I began to wonder if I ... could receive messages during my times of communing with God. I had been writing in prayer journals for years, but that was one-way communication: I did all the talking. I knew that God communicated with me through the Bible, but I yearned for more. Increasingly, I wanted to hear what God had to say to me personally on a given day.” Sarah Young – author of *Jesus Calling*

“When you become a Christian, you receive the supernatural ability to hear God’s guidance and specific direction for your life.” Priscilla Shirer – author of *Lifeway Resource’s: Is That You God? A Taste of Discerning The Voice of God.*

“I don’t know about you, but I want God’s specific revelation to flow through my heart to impact my choices and path. When I say I want to hear from God, I mean that I need to know what job He wants me to take. I need to know what spouse He wants me to marry. I need to know whether He’s calling me into fulltime ministry or if He wants me to stay on my full-time, corporate job. I need to know if I’m supposed to buy this house or that one. I need to know if I’m supposed to live in Chicago or Dallas. I need specifics. I’m looking for details.” Priscilla Shirer

Question: Does God operate in the same way today as seen with the servant? Why or why not?

Consider the following verses:

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. (Heb 1:1-2)

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. (Jud 1:3)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work. (2Ti 3:16-17)

Question: Based on these verses, do we need more? Why or why not?

Question: Should we want more? Why or why not?

Question: How do we know what job to take? What spouse to marry? Where we should live? When we say we pray about these things, from where do the answers come?

What job do I take?

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Col 3:23-24)

Whom do I marry?

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? (2Co 6:14)

How, not where, should I live?

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. (Php 1:27-28)

Next Week: Genesis 25-26