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A Biographical Study of Rebekah

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Rebekah

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. The diligence of Rebekah
 - A. She was the grand-niece of Abraham (Gen. 24:15)
 - B. She grew up in Nahor, a town located in northwest Mesopotamia (Gen. 24:10).
 - C. She was a very beautiful girl (Gen. 24:16).
 - D. Abraham sent his servant Eliezer to Nahor that he might find a bride for Isaac (Gen. 24:1-4).
 - E. Outside the city, Eliezer prayed to be shown the girl he should select. God immediately answered, even before he had finished his prayer (Gen. 24:10-21).
 1. Rebekah was the first girl to approach him beside a wall.
 2. She volunteered to give him a drink and also to draw water for his camels, thus fulfilling the two signs Eliezer had asked God for.
- II. The decision of Rebekah—She agreed to go with Eliezer and marry Isaac (Gen. 24:58-67).
- III. The dilemma of Rebekah—After Rebekah remained barren for 20 years, God answered Isaac’s prayer and she conceived (Gen. 25:21).
 - A. Her question: “The children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the Lord” (Gen. 25:22).
 - B. Her answer: “The Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger” (Gen. 25:23).
- IV. The deference of Rebekah
 - A. The twins were born and named—Esau, the firstborn, and Jacob (Gen. 25:24-26).
 - B. Rebekah unwisely preferred Jacob over Esau as the boys were growing up (Gen. 25:28).
- V. The distress of Rebekah
 - A. She was compromised by Isaac (Gen. 26:6-11).
 1. In time of famine Isaac took Rebekah to the land of the Philistines and lied about her (as Abraham had once done to Sarah in Egypt), saying she was his sister.
 2. Isaac was fearful he would be killed so that the Philistine ruler might marry Rebekah.
 3. The lie was discovered, however, when the king saw them caressing each other.
 - B. She was concerned over Esau—His marriage to two pagan Hittite girls brought grief to Rebekah (Gen. 26:34-35).
- VI. The deception of Rebekah

- A. She overheard Isaac's plan to give Esau the blessing (Gen. 27:1-5).
 - B. She then instructed Jacob to pretend to be Esau and thus receive the blessing (Gen. 27:5-17).
 - C. Upon learning of Esau's plan to kill Jacob for cheating him, Rebekah sent her beloved son to her brother Laban in northwest Mesopotamia (Gen. 27:42-46).
- VII. The death of Rebekah—She died and was buried along with Abraham and Sarah in the cave of Machpelah (Gen. 49:30-31).

THEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

In the New Testament, Paul referred to the birth of Rebekah's twin sons as an example of God's sovereign activities in human affairs (Rom. 9:10-13).

STATISTICS

Father: Bethuel (Gen. 22:23)

Spouse: Isaac (Gen. 24:67)

Sons: Esau and Jacob (Gen. 25:21-26)

Brother: Laban (Gen. 24:29)

First mention: Genesis 22:23

Final mention: Romans 9:10

Meaning of her name: "Flattering"

Frequency of her name: Referred to 29 times

Biblical books mentioning her: Two books (Genesis, Romans)

Place of birth: Nahor (Gen. 24:10)

Place of death: Hebron

Important fact about her life: She was Isaac's wife and Jacob's mother (Gen. 24:67; 25:26).