Genesis

**When it is Time (24:10-25:10)**

*From a study of Luther’s Works: Lectures on Genesis, Paul Kretzmann’s Popular Commentary of the Bible, and the Lutheran Study Bible*

## **To Find *The* Wife (24:10-67)**

* Time to get a move on.
  + Gifts accompany the servant
    - Prepared and ready for a positive outcome
* Time to put the plan into motion
  + Get the camels ready
* Time to Pray
  + Is the servant dictating to God how things should be in his prayer?
  + Or is he asking “Thy will be done?”
    - My answer is brief. According to the Law, one may not prescribe anything to God; but according to the Gospel, the godly, who are without the Law, may do so, while the ungodly may not. Therefore this request is granted to the servant because he has a command from God. Thus one could give a brief answer, but we do not want to take advantage of this evangelical freedom.[[1]](#footnote-1)
    - The servant trusts that the Lord God WILL provide
      * By faith, he believes the promise after the time he has spent with Abraham.
  + The importance of prayer in the life of the godly
    - Note how fast the Lord answers the prayer!
      * Psalm 22:5
      * Isaiah 65:24
      * Rebekah shows up at the well
        + Genesis 11:29
* Time to act
  + The servant immediately acts on the opportunity.
    - Runs to her while she is filling the jars, to ask her for water
* Time to respond.
  + Rebekah does not question.
  + Commendable hospitality
    - Toward this stranger
    - Toward his camels
      * Odd question… would the camels need water?
    - Consider the hospitality we have seen thus far in Genesis.
    - Note the word “quickly”
      * Throughout this account, there is a sense of urgency.
    - Among us examples of these virtues are rare, for here we are not living with human beings but with swine. They have no sense at all; nor do they learn anything either about faith or about good manners. Therefore we need patience on account of the glory of God, who has put us in this place[[2]](#footnote-2)
* Time to ponder
  + The joy of the marvel
* Time to learn
  + Gold ring/earring
    - 1 shekel = 2/5 ounce or 11 grams
  + Therefore let us hear the nuptial song as an example for young people, in order that they may learn to have honorable sentiments about marriage and both sexes, matters that are disparaged among the heathen, as can be observed in the Greek and Latin poets; for young people consider solely the flesh and thus insult God the Creator. We should put the text of Holy Scripture before their eyes[[3]](#footnote-3)
    - Nothing wrong with a bit of bling
    - Not a proposal yet, but a gift of thanks?
  + An odd request for Rebekah
    - Would it have been her place as a daughter to authorize a stranger’s (and his traveling companions/servants) stay in her father’s house?
      * Rebecca has no doubt that her parents will receive the servant with the greatest goodwill. These words are high praise of kindness, affection, and hospitality, virtues in which the saints trained their children so that they would be generous and hospitable, especially toward patriarchs, prophets, and those who were disseminating the Word and the heavenly doctrine. Let us, too, strive to follow and imitate this.[[4]](#footnote-4)
    - Yet, it was time to learn Rebekah’s heritage
* Time to worship
  + Notice how quickly this happens!
  + The servant KNOWS the LORD has provided
    - In the presence of Rebekah, he gives thanks.
      * He also uses the plural for God(s)
        + Trinitarian
    - In so doing, Rebekah learns this stranger is connected to Uncle Abraham
      * Would the family have known of his name change?
* Time to tell mom’s household
  + She runs!
  + Separate tents, still a family
* Time to bring this stranger home
  + Laban runs with an invitation for everyone!
    - Another sign of hospitality reinforced
    - Matthew 10:40
  + “O blessed of the LORD”
    - Rebekah’s family at the very least knew hw"+hy> (Yahweh)!
  + Food is prepared and ready…
    - But the servant can’t eat!
    - The urgency of his mission.
      * Colossians 3:23-24
* Time to lay everything on the line
  + He is their uncle Abraham’s servant
    - Relates how the LORD has blessed Abraham
    - Relates Abraham’s request for a daughter-in-law from his family line
    - Relates how the LORD would have a hand in this
      * No mere chance encounter
  + Repetitive to the hearer/reader?
    - Importance of recognizing the Lord’s hand in this
    - Importance of recognizing the Lord’s hand in our life!
  + What will the family say???
* Time to give to the Lord
  + Laban and Bethuel recognize this request and all that has happened as having come from the Lord!
    - Who are they to stand in His way?
* Time to worship (again)
* Time for gifts and a party
* Time to go home
  + First thing in the morning is a request to return
  + Yet the family desires Rebekah to stay for 10 days
    - Not ready to let her go
    - But they ask for Rebekah’s decision
      * Rebekah acknowledges the importance of this servant’s mission as something that had come from the LORD
        + No delay
      * The last passage deals with the girl’s consent; for before the servant departs, they call her and ask: “Do you want to go with that man?” Therefore a marriage should be brought about in such a way that we have God present. He established marriage for countless good purposes, and He Himself joins the spouses. Nor does He only join them; He also blesses them. But He requires the consent of the parents as well as of the girl, in order that there may be a lawful and truly divine union.[[5]](#footnote-5)
  + Sent with blessing
    - Echoes of 22:17
* Time to meet Isaac
  + Coming from the region of/ or the actual well, Beer-lahai-roi (between Kadesh and Bered)(16:14)
    - The well where Hagar ran to after Ishmael was born
    - The well was named “the well of the Living One who sees me”
      * Recognition that the Lord was with Isaac?
  + Isaac meditates
    - Psalm 77:12
    - Psalm 143:5
      * Was Isaac aware of what his father had done?
  + Eyes are lifted up to see
    - Rebekah veils herself
      * Next Rebecca’s modesty is praised, because she covers herself with a veil when she sees Isaac. This conduct is a sign of a most excellent upbringing and of a virgin who has been reared chastely and modestly, who shrinks from looking at men, even at her bridegroom.[[6]](#footnote-6)
  + The two become one

## **Father Abraham had Many Sons (25:1-10)**

* Abraham remarries
  + this chapter presents a matter and a seemingly very bad example that gravely offends everybody. For Abraham, an old man, decrepit, near the grave, and altogether moribund, before whose eyes and mind there can be nothing more than death, marries a young girl and begets more children.[[7]](#footnote-7)
  + Yet Luther goes on to say…
    - Abraham was not a lustful old man; but whatever he did, he did because of his love and desire for offspring and at God’s command[[8]](#footnote-8)
  + Kethurah
    - Some question if she is Hagar
      * Doubtful
    - Abraham’s Concubine
      * 1 Chronicles 1:32
    - They have children
      * Midian is of note
        + Exodus 2:15
  + Isaac is still the focus
    - Gifts for the others
    - Sends them away
      * While Abraham was alive, he made these arrangements with the good intention that after his death no occasion for quarreling should remain.[[9]](#footnote-9)
* Abraham dies at 175
  + Fulfilment of Genesis 15:15
    - In all Holy Scripture this is the first passage which declares that the death of the saints is peaceful and precious in the sight of God (Ps. 116:15) and that the saints do not taste death but most pleasantly fall asleep. Isaiah read and carefully expounded this passage, for from it there originated those striking statements he made: “The righteous man is taken away from calamity, he enters into peace; they rest in their beds” (57:1–2)[[10]](#footnote-10)
  + He was gathered to his people
    - Do people, then, still remain after this life? For the words sound as though he had gone from one people to another or from one city to another. This is truly an outstanding and notable evidence of the resurrection and the future life. It should be set forth for the comfort of all who believe in God[[11]](#footnote-11)
    - Matthew 22:32
    - Isaiah 57:1-2
    - John 8:51
      * Trust in the promise!
      * But here one must also censure the foolishness of the papists, who have devised five places after death: (1) the hell of the damned; (2) the hell of infants who were not baptized; (3) purgatory; (4) the limbo of the fathers (in the New Testament they added Paradise on account of Christ’s statement in Luke 23:43: “Today you will be with Me in Paradise”); and (5) the open heaven.[[12]](#footnote-12)
* Isaac and Ishmael bury Abraham with Sarah
  + Genesis 23:16

1. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge24.12-14&off=1635&ctx=us+(Judg.+6%3a36%E2%80%9337).%0a~My+answer+is+brief.+), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 261. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge24.16-18&off=2524), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 271. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge24.22&off=1523&ctx=Rebecca%E2%80%99s+marriage.+~Therefore+let+us+hea), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 274. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge24.25&off=604&ctx=ts.+For+this+reason+~Rebecca+has+no+doubt), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 278. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge24.55-61&off=3309&ctx=s+why+he+overcomes.%0a~The+last+passage+dea), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 298. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge24.62-67&off=2890&ctx=nd+restored+nature.%0a~Next+Rebecca%E2%80%99s+modes), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 299. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.1-4&off=458&ctx=+church+of+God.+But+~this+chapter+present), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 300. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.1-4&off=8420&ctx=%3f+Godly+offspring.%E2%80%9D+~Abraham+was+not+a+lu), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 303. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.5-6&off=1220&ctx=s+of+everyday+life.+~While+Abraham+was+al), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 308. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.7-10&off=1253&ctx=+and+full+of+years.%0a~In+all+Holy+Scriptur), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 309. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.7-10&off=2754&ctx=red+to+his+people.%E2%80%9D+~Do+people%2c+then%2c+sti), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 309. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Martin Luther, [*Luther’s Works, Vol. 4: Lectures on Genesis: Chapters 21-25*](https://ref.ly/logosres/lw04?ref=Bible.Ge25.7-10&off=14621&ctx=in+an+eternal+life.%0a~But+here+one+must+al), ed. Jaroslav Jan Pelikan, Hilton C. Oswald, and Helmut T. Lehmann, vol. 4 (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1999), 314. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)