

CHAPTER ANALYSIS FORM

Chapter: 23-24

Chapter Title: Sarah's Death, Isaac's Wife

1. Chapter Summary:

1. Chapter 23
 - a. Sarah dies and is buried 1-20

2. Chapter 24
 - a. The servant's charge 1-9
 - b. The servant's prayer 10-14
 - c. The servant's prayer answered 15-26
 - d. The servant welcomed 27-32
 - e. The servant's purpose 33-49
 - f. The servant's diligence 50-61
 - g. The servant's return 62-67

2. Observation		3. Interpretation	
What Does It Say?		What Does It Mean?	
Verse		Verse	
	Chapter 23		
1-20	Sarah dies at 127. Abraham negotiates the purchase of a cave as a tomb for Sarah and buries her there.	1-20	

	Chapter 24		
1-9	Abraham is getting old and Isaac is not married. Abraham tells his servant to go back to Abraham's family to find Isaac a wife but, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE, is he to allow Isaac to marry a Canaanite woman or allow Isaac to go back to his ancestral land. The servant swears to carry out his charge.	1-9	<p>If this passage follows closely to Sarah's death and burial, then Abraham is 137 and Isaac is 37. Abraham knows Isaac is the child of promise and wants to be sure Isaac does not marry someone who will lead him away from God. He also knows that God has promised his descendants a land and seems to think that if Isaac goes back to Abraham's family that he will stay there and forego the promise. There are parallels to this in the NT ("Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.") and the warnings in Hebrews about leaving the promise of salvation.</p> <p>How do we approach these subjects with our own children?</p>
10-14	Abraham's servant loads up and heads for the town where Abraham's brother Nahor lives. Once there, he prays to God for a very specific sign concerning the future wife of Isaac.	10-14	<p>Abraham's faith was not kept secret. Even his servant sees and understands his faith in God. Do we make our faith that apparent to others or is it a "private" matter?</p> <p>The servant's prayer is interesting – he is very specific in his request of God. Specific enough that, if these things happen, he will know for sure it is from the Lord. How specific are we in our prayers? Do we ask the Lord for signs to bolster a weak faith or do we ask in strong faith knowing we can trust God's answer whatever form it takes?</p>
15-26	Before the servant had even finished the prayer, Rebekah comes to draw water. Her interaction with the servant is verbatim of his prayer. He receives further confirmation when Rebekah tells him her father's identity. In response to all this the servant kneels and praises God for his supernatural involvement in the journey.	15-26	<p>Implied in the servant's worship is the idea that he was not sure this town was the correct place. He only knew he had come to a town somewhere near where Abraham's family should be dwelling. Do you notice how God not only answered the servant's prayer but provided even more assurance? Does not God provide even more abundantly than what we ask because he loves us, and we ask so little? Is not Rebekah another of God's responses to the faith Abraham exhibits?</p>

27-32	Rebekah runs home and tells the family what happened. Laban, her brother, goes out to meet the servant and extends his family's hospitality to the servant.	27-32	We see that hospitality runs in Abraham's family. Even though it was an important part of life in this region it seems that Abraham's family was especially sensitive to being hospitable. It is one more assurance from God that the servant's search is proceeding as it should.
33-49	The servant tells the family why and how he came to be there. He not only tells about his charge but how God answered his prayer. Now that he is sure he is in the right place he wants to know if Abraham's relatives will provide a wife for Isaac. If not, he is prepared to go on until he finds one.	33-49	Abraham's servant is resolute in the execution of his charge. He will not let even a dinner get in his way of doing what Abraham asked. How many times do we get – SQUIRREL – distracted from doing what God has asked? Do we ask God for the grace to be as resolute as this servant? When we are resolute in our service does God, alone, get the glory?
50-61	The next day the servant is ready to return home. The family wants him to delay but he is having none of it. They bring Rebekah in and ask her – she says let's go! They left after Rebekah's family gave her a blessing.	50-61	Having obtained God's blessing for his master the servant was ready to get home. Once again, he would not be deterred. In a manner that is out of place for this time the family asks Rebekah what she wants to do. We aren't told but I would really like to know why she was willing to leave immediately.
62-67	When they get back home, they see Isaac in the field. Rebekah asks who it is and when the servant replies she puts her veil on in preparation of meeting him. Isaac takes her to be his wife.	62-67	While the main story is obviously not about the servant, I want you to notice the only person that is common throughout the passage is the servant. He takes his charge seriously, pursues it resolutely, and sees it through to completion. Do you notice we are never told his name? In our service for our Master do we want our name to be known or do we want to hear, "Well done, my good and faithful servant?" Even if we are never known by others?

4. Correlation		5. Application
Where Else Is It Explained?		What Will I Do About It?
Verse		
	Chapter 23	
1-20	Acts 7:16 Hebrews 11:9 13	
	Chapter 24	
1-9	Acts 7:4-8 Galatians 3:16	
10-14		
15-26		
27-32		
33-49		
50-61		
62-67		

6. Conclusions

7. One Personal Application