

The Skilled Designer
The LORD, the God of Heaven and God of the Earth
Genesis 23-24

Today's Goal:

To grasp God's Sovereignty + His Steadfast love for us.

Proverbs 16:3 **Commit your work to the LORD,** and **your plans** will be established.

Proverbs 19:21 Many are the **plans in the mind of a man,** but it is the **purpose of the LORD that will stand.**

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the **plans** I have for you, declares the LORD, **plans** for welfare and not for evil, **to give you a future and a hope.**

Exodus 35:35 **He has filled them with skill** to do **every sort of work** done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or **skilled designer (plans).**

God promised Abraham four main things:

1. A land
2. Numerous descendants
3. Divine blessings
4. Though him all the nations of the world would be blessed.

Major events in the life of Abraham

Genesis 12:4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. **Abram was seventy-five years old** when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 21:5 **Abraham was a hundred years old** when his son Isaac was born to him.

Genesis 23:1 **Sarah lived 127 years;** these were the years of the life of Sarah.

Genesis 25:20 and **Isaac was forty years old** when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.

Genesis 25:7 These are the days of the **years of Abraham's life, 175 years.**

Genesis 12:7a Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, **"To your offspring I will give this land."**

Genesis 15:18-21 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, **"To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."**

Genesis 21:12 But God said to Abraham...**for through Isaac shall your offspring be named.**

Genesis 22:18 and in **your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,**

Genesis 23:1 **Sarah lived 127 years;** these were the years of the life of Sarah.

Genesis 23:2 And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, **Hebron**) in the land of **Canaan**, and Abraham went in to **mourn for Sarah** and to **weep for her.**

Real Estate Deal

Genesis 23:3 And Abraham **rose up** from before **his dead** and said to the **Hittites,**

Genesis 23:4 **"I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property** among you for a **burying place,** that I may **bury my dead** out of my sight."

Hebrews 11:9 By faith he went to live in **the land of promise,** as in a **foreign land,** **living in tents** with Isaac and Jacob, **heirs with him of the same promise.**

Hebrews 11:10 **For he was looking forward to the city** that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Genesis 23:5 The **Hittites** answered Abraham,

Genesis 23:6 "Hear us, my lord; you are a **prince of God** among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead."

Genesis 23:7 Abraham rose and bowed to **the Hittites, the people of the land.**

Genesis 23:8 And he said to them, “If you are willing that I should **bury my dead** out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar,

Genesis 23:9 that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”

Genesis 23:10 Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, **of all who went in at the gate of his city,**

Genesis 23:11 “No, my lord, hear me: **I give you the field, and I give you the cave** that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people **I give it to you. Bury your dead.**”

Genesis 23:12 Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land.

Genesis 23:13 And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.”

Genesis 23:14 Ephron answered Abraham,

Genesis 23:15 “My lord, listen to me: **a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me?** Bury your dead.”

Genesis 23:16 Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, **four hundred shekels of silver,** according to the weights current among the merchants.

Genesis 23:17 So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over

Genesis 23:18 to **Abraham as a possession** in the **presence of the Hittites**, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

Genesis 23:19 After this, **Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave** of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

Genesis 23:20 The **field** and **the cave** that is in it were made over to Abraham as **property for a burying place by the Hittites.**

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Rebekah, and Leah would later be laid to rest in this cave

Genesis 24:1 Now **Abraham was old, well advanced in years.** And the **LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.**

Romans 4:20 **No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God,** but he **grew strong in his faith** as he gave glory to God,

Genesis 24:2 And Abraham said to his **servant, the oldest of his household,** who **had charge of all that he had,** “Put your hand under my thigh,

Genesis 24:3 that I may make you swear by **the LORD, the God of heaven and God of the earth,** that you will **not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell,**

Genesis 24:4 but will go to **my country** and to **my kindred,** and take a wife for my son Isaac.”

Genesis 15:15-16 As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Genesis 24:5 The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. **Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?”**

Genesis 24:6 Abraham said to him, “**See to it that you do not take my son back there.**

Genesis 24:7 The **LORD, the God of heaven,** who **took me** from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who **spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’** he will send his angel before you, and you shall **take a wife for my son from there.**

Genesis 24:8 **But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.”**

Genesis 24:9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

Genesis 24:10 Then the servant took **ten of his master's camels** and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. **(520 miles / 17–23 miles per day)**

Genesis 24:11 And he made the **camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water.**

Genesis 24:12 And he said, “**O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham.**”

Genesis 24:13 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and **the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.**

Genesis 24:14 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.”**

*1 camel can drink up to 53 gallons.
typical water jar holds 3 gallons, which weighs 25 pounds.
10 camels x 53 gallons
176 jars of water, weighing total of 4,416 lbs.*

Genesis 24:15 **Before he had finished speaking**, behold, Rebekah, **who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother**, came out with her water jar on her shoulder.

Genesis 24:16 The **young woman was very attractive** in appearance, **a maiden whom no man had known**. She went down to the spring and **filled her jar** and came up.

Genesis 24:17 Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “**Please give me a little water to drink from your jar.**”

Genesis 24:18 She said, “**Drink, my lord.**” And she quickly **let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink.**

Genesis 24:19 When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, **“I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.”**

Genesis 24:20 So she quickly **emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels.**

Genesis 24:21 The **man gazed at her in silence** to learn whether the LORD had prospered his journey or not.

Genesis 24:22 **When the camels had finished drinking**, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels,

Genesis 24:23 and said, **“Please tell me whose daughter you are.** Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?”

Genesis 24:24 She said to him, **“I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.”**

Genesis 24:25 She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.”

Genesis 24:26 The **man bowed his head and worshiped the LORD**

Genesis 24:27 and said, **“Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the LORD has led me in the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.”**

Genesis 24:28 Then the **young woman ran** and told her mother’s household about these things.

Genesis 24:29 **Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban.** Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring.

Genesis 24:30 As soon as he (Laban) **saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s arms**, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, “Thus the man spoke to me,” he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.

Genesis 24:31 He said, **“Come in, O blessed of the LORD.** Why do you stand outside? **For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.”**

Genesis 24:32 So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

Genesis 24:33 Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, **“I will not eat until I have said what I have to say.”** He said, “Speak on.”

Genesis 24:34 So he said, **“I am Abraham’s servant.**

Genesis 24:35 The **LORD has greatly blessed my master**, and **he has become great**. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys.

Genesis 24:36 And Sarah my master’s wife **bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has.**

Genesis 24:37 My master made me swear, saying, **‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell,**

Genesis 24:38 but you shall **go to my father’s house** and to **my clan** and **take a wife for my son.’**

Genesis 24:39 I said to my master, **‘Perhaps the woman will not follow me.’**

Genesis 24:40 But he said to me, **‘The LORD, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father’s house.**

Genesis 24:41 Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.’

Genesis 24:42-47 - retelling of watering the camels

Genesis 24:48 Then I bowed my head and **worshiped the LORD** and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, **who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.**

Genesis 24:49 Now then, if you are going to show **steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.”**

Genesis 24:50 Then **Laban** and **Bethuel** answered and said, “**The thing has come from the LORD**; we cannot speak to you bad or good.

Genesis 24:51 Behold, **Rebekah is before you; take her and go**, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, **as the LORD has spoken.**”

Genesis 24:52 When Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the LORD.

Genesis 24:53 And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. **He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments.**

Genesis 24:54 And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.”

Genesis 24:55 Her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go.”

Genesis 24:56 But he said to them, “**Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way**. Send me away that I may go to my master.”

Genesis 24:57 They said, “**Let us call the young woman and ask her.**”

Genesis 24:58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, “**Will you go with this man?**” She said, “**I will go.**”

Genesis 24:59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham’s servant and his men.

Genesis 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “**Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate him!**”

Genesis 24:61 Then Rebekah and her young women arose and **rode on the camels and followed the man**. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way.

Genesis 24:62 Now **Isaac had returned** from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb.

Genesis 24:63 And **Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening**. And he **lifted up his eyes** and saw, and **behold, there were camels coming**.

Genesis 24:64 And **Rebekah lifted up her eyes**, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel

Genesis 24:65 and said to the servant, “**Who is that man**, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself.

Genesis 24:66 And the servant told **Isaac all the things that he had done**.

Genesis 24:67 Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and **she became his wife**, and **he loved her**. So **Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death**.

Genesis 25:20 and **Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah...**to be his wife.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the **plans** I have for you, declares the LORD, **plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope**.

Philippians 3:20 But **our citizenship is in heaven**, and from it **we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**,

Titus 2:13 **waiting for our blessed hope**, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

2Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is **preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison**,

Romans 8:18 For I consider that the **sufferings of this present time** are not worth **comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us**.

Revelation 21:4 **He will wipe away every tear** from their eyes, and **death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore**, for the former things have passed away.”

Lamentations 3:21-23 But this **I call to mind**, and **therefore I have hope**: The **steadfast love of the LORD never ceases**; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

1Thessalonians 5:18 **give thanks in all circumstances**; for this is the **will of God in Christ Jesus for you**.

Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that **he who began a good work** in you will **bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**.

God has a redemptive plan that is unfolding each day
and will culminate in Christ's return.

God loves you.

God has a redemptive plan for your life.

God is a skilled designer.

God's plan is for your welfare.

God's plan (circumstances) is preparing you
for the glory that is beyond all comparison.

Romans 15:4 For **whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction**, that **through endurance** and through the **encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope**.

Romans 12:12 **Rejoice** in hope, **be patient** in tribulation, **be constant** in prayer.

Read the Bible. Hold onto revealed promises.
Look back to His faithfulness to guide you in going forward.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, **how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?**

Mark 1:17 And Jesus said to them, "**Follow me**