

February 21–27
Genesis 24–27
The Covenant is Renewed



Rebekah

Gen 24:1-4

What was of upmost importance to Abraham at this time?

Elaine S. Dalton

“Abraham charges his servant with finding a worthy young woman to be his son Isaac’s wife. She must be one who qualifies for a covenant marriage—virtuous and pure and worthy. And so he sends his servant on a long and dangerous journey to a place called Haran. The reason he must go there is clear—holy men need holy women to stand by their sides.” (CR, April 2013)

Rebekah

Gen 24:12-20

How much work do you think it would be to draw enough water for satisfy the thirst of 10 camels?

What does this act tell us about the character of Rebekah?

Elaine L. Jack

“In the scriptures, we find many examples of women whose daily efforts reflected charity. With their hearts filled with the pure love of Christ, they responded to needs quickly and effectively.

“Rebekah, who eventually became the wife of Isaac and the mother of Jacob and Esau, was just such a woman. In the normal pattern of her daily tasks, she was kind to Abraham’s servant who was visiting her village on the dramatic mission to secure a wife for Isaac.

“The Lord knew Rebekah’s heart; he knew how she would respond when she observed a need. He answered the servant’s prayer that the young woman who was to become Isaac’s wife would offer him water.” (CR, Oct. 1996)

Rebekah

Gen 24:33,55-58

F. Burton Howard

“By exercising his faith, [the servant] met Rebekah and arrived at the home of her family and was befriended by them. They invited him to dinner. After days in the desert, and despite his hunger and thirst, this faithful servant said, ‘I will not eat, until I have told mine errand.’

“So it was. He explained the purpose of his journey and his oath to Abraham. One simple statement conveyed his faithfulness and humility. ‘I am Abraham’s servant.’ The kinsfolk wanted a 10-day celebration. The servant replied, ‘Hinder me not, seeing the Lord hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master.’

“Many would have tarried. Others would have justified unwinding a little by saying that the journey had been long or that they were tired or hungry or thirsty. Some, not wanting to appear too zealous, would have stayed.... Yet this servant... knew how to magnify his calling and accomplish that which he had promised his master.” (CR, April 1996)

Elaine S. Dalton

“Then they asked Rebekah what she wanted to do, and her response was simply ‘I will go.’... Rebekah was prepared and worthy to make and keep sacred covenants and to become a covenant wife of Isaac. She did not have to wait and prepare herself. Prior to her departure from her family, she was given a blessing, and the words are stirring to me, for she was promised that she would become ‘the mother of thousands of millions’ (Gen 24:60.)” (CR, April 2013)

Rebekah

Gen 25:5-8

Esau and Jacob

Gen 25:20-23

What did Lord reveal to Rebekah about the younger son that she was about to bear?

Parley P. Pratt

“The peculiar things of the Priesthood, through which all nations should be blessed, pertained exclusively to that peculiar branch of the Hebrews which sprang from Jacob.

“Now before these two children were born, or had done any good or evil in this life, God, who was acquainted with them in the former life, and who knew the grades of intelligence or of nobility possessed by each, revealed to Rebecca, their mother, that two nations or manner of people would spring from these twins, and that one people should be stronger than the other, and that the elder should serve the younger.” (JD, 1:256)

Esau and Jacob

Gen 25:29-34

What was Esau's attitude towards the birthright?

Dallin H. Oaks

“The contrast between the spiritual and the temporal is also illustrated by the twins Esau and Jacob and their different attitudes toward their birthright. The firstborn, Esau, ‘despised his birthright.’ Jacob, the second twin, desired it. Jacob valued the spiritual, while Esau sought the things of this world. When he was hungry, Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. ‘Behold,’ he explained, ‘I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?’ Many Esaus have given up something of eternal value in order to satisfy a momentary hunger for the things of the world.” (CR, Oct. 1985)

Mark E. Petersen

[Speaking of the parable of the pearl of great price]

“We have always felt that that merchant was an extremely wise man, because he was willing to give up all that he possessed in order to acquire the pearl of great price. But let me ask you, what would you have thought of that merchant had the parable been reversed and he had given up the pearl of great price in exchange for something of little or no value?

“We have some among us who are doing that very thing. In their own lives they reverse the parable of the Lord and they give up the pearl of great price for a fleeting fancy. They actually sell their birthright in the kingdom of God for less than a mess of pottage... individuals who have been excommunicated from this Church... at one time were all members of the kingdom of God, and at one time they all possessed the pearl of great price. But each one of them has reversed that parable in his own life and has given up the pearl of great price with all its values and with all its blessings. What a pity! What a tragedy!” (CR, Oct. 1945)

Esau and Jacob

Gen 26:1-5

Esau and Jacob

Gen 27:6-10

How would you characterize Rebekah's plan for Jacob to receive the covenant blessing?

Mary Pratt Parrish

“While the children were still in her womb, the Lord revealed to Rebekah that, contrary to the custom of the day, the ‘elder would serve the younger.’ With this knowledge, she jealously guarded Jacob’s God-given right to be the heir to the covenant. When she discovered that Isaac intended to give this blessing to Esau, who had already sold his birthright to Jacob and had further discredited himself by marrying two Canaanite women, she interfered and substituted Jacob in his stead.” (“Guardians of the Covenant,” Ensign, May 1972)

Esau and Jacob

Gen 27:18-19,25-29

Bruce R. McConkie

“Women are appointed, Rebekah-like, to be guides and lights in righteousness in the family unit, and to engineer and arrange so that things are done in the way that will result in the salvation of more of our Father’s children. (“Our Sisters from the Beginning,” Ensign, Jan. 1979)

Esau and Jacob

Gen 27:30-36

Edward J. Brandt

“When Esau came to claim his blessing, Isaac realized that the important rights of priesthood presidency did, in fact, belong to faithful Jacob, not to unworthy Esau: ‘Yea,’ said Isaac, ‘and he shall be blessed’. If the prophet-patriarch had acted improperly, he had the priesthood right to revoke Jacob’s blessing. But he didn’t do so, knowing that he had done the will of the Lord. Perceiving that Esau’s concern was for the loss of the temporal gain instead of spiritual blessings, Isaac promised him prosperity, but he also reaffirmed the blessing of Jacob.” (“Understanding the Old Testament: Keys to Resolving Difficult Questions,” Ensign, Sept. 1980)

Esau and Jacob

Gen 27:37-40

What did Issac's blessing to Esau include?

Esau and Jacob

Gen 27:41-46

Bruce R. McConkie

“Esau did not marry in the everlasting covenant revealed to Abraham; Esau chose to live after the manner of the world, rather than to keep the standards of righteousness which the Lord had given them....

“In the light of all this, in effect, [Rebekah said to Isaac] ‘If Jacob marries out of the Church as Esau has done, what good is there left for me in life?’ And having been encouraged and impelled to step forward and assume his responsibility, this is what Isaac did....

“Rebekah truly she is one of the most noble and glorious of women!” (“Our Sisters from the Beginning,” Ensign, Jan. 1979)

Next Week:

February 28–March 6

Genesis 28–33

“Surely the Lord is in This Place”

