

Gen. 24:1 Abraham was now old, advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to the senior servant of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, “Put your hand under my thigh ³ and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to the land of my birth and get a wife for my son Isaac.” ⁵ And the servant said to him, “What if the woman does not consent to follow me to this land, shall I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” ⁶ Abraham answered him, “On no account must you take my son back there! ⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from my native land, who promised me on oath, saying, ‘I will assign this land to your offspring’—He will send His angel before you, and you will get a wife for my son from there. ⁸ And if the woman does not consent to follow you, you shall then be clear of this oath to me; but do not take my son back there.” ⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of **his master** [אֲדֹנָי] Abraham and swore to him as bidden.

Gen. 24:10 Then the servant took ten of **his master’s** camels and set out, taking with him all the bounty of **his master**; and he made his way to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ He made the camels kneel down by the well outside the city, at evening time, the time when women come out to draw water. ¹² And he said, “O LORD, God of **my master** [אֲדֹנָי] Abraham, grant me good fortune this day, and deal graciously with **my master** Abraham: ¹³ Here I stand by the spring as the daughters of the townsmen come out to draw water; ¹⁴ let the maiden to whom I say, ‘Please, lower your jar that I may drink,’ and who replies, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels’—let her be the one whom You have decreed for Your servant Isaac. Thereby shall I know that You have dealt graciously with **my master**.”

Gen. 24:15 He had scarcely finished speaking, when Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, the son of Milcah the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The maiden was very beautiful, a virgin whom no man had known. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. ¹⁷ The servant ran toward her and said, “Please, let me sip a little water from your jar.” ¹⁸ “Drink, **my lord**,” she said, and she quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and let him drink.

Ex. 21:4 If his master gave him a wife, and she has borne him children, the wife and her children shall belong to the master, and he shall leave alone. ⁵ But if the slave declares, “I love **my master**, and my wife and children: I do not wish to go free,” ⁶ **his master** shall take him before God. He shall be brought to the door or the doorpost, and **his master** shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall then remain his slave for life.

- **Gen. 24:27** and said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of **my master** Abraham, who has not withheld His steadfast faithfulness from **my master**. For I have been guided on my errand by the LORD, to the house of **my master’s** kinsmen.”
- **Gen. 24:35** “The LORD has greatly blessed **my master**, and he has become rich: He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and asses. ³⁶ And Sarah, **my master’s** wife, bore **my master** a son in her old age, and he has assigned to him everything he

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owns.³⁷ Now **my master** made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I dwell;

- **Gen. 24:39** And I said to **my master**, ‘What if the woman does not follow me?’
- **Gen. 24:42** “I came today to the spring, and I said: O LORD, God of **my master** Abraham, if You would indeed grant success to the errand on which I am engaged!
- **Gen. 24:44** and who answers, ‘You may drink, and I will also draw for your camels’—let her be the wife whom the LORD has decreed for **my master’s** son.’
- **Gen. 24:48** Then I bowed low in homage to the LORD and blessed the LORD, the God of **my master** Abraham, who led me on the right way to get the daughter of **my master’s** brother for his son.⁴⁹ And now, if you mean to treat **my master** with true kindness, tell me; and if not, tell me also, that I may turn right or left.”
- **Gen. 24:51** Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be a wife to **your master’s** [בְּרִיִּי] son, as the LORD has spoken.”
- **Gen. 24:54** Then he and the men with him ate and drank, and they spent the night. When they arose next morning, he said, “Give me leave to go to **my master**.”
- **Gen. 24:56** He said to them, “Do not delay me, now that the LORD has made my errand successful. Give me leave that I may go to **my master**.”

Gen. 24:62 Isaac had just come back from the vicinity of Beer-lahai-roi, for he was settled in the region of the Negeb.⁶³ And Isaac went out walking in the field toward evening and, looking up, he saw camels approaching.⁶⁴ Raising her eyes, Rebekah saw Isaac. She alighted from the camel⁶⁵ and said to the servant, “Who is that man walking in the field toward us?” And the servant said, “**That is my master.**”

Nahum Sarna, *Genesis* (JPS Torah Commentary)

65. my master He merits this title because he is his father’s sole heir.

Jon Levenson, “Genesis,” *Jewish Study Bible*

65: Everywhere else in the chapter, *my master* refers to Abraham, and Isaac has been called “his/my master’s son.” Perhaps Abraham has died while his steward was on his sacred mission. If so, the events narrated in 25.1–18 had happened beforehand.

Gen. 25:1 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah...⁵ Abraham willed all that he owned to Isaac; ⁶ but to Abraham’s sons by concubines Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and he sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the East ...⁸ And Abraham breathed his last, dying at a good ripe age, old and contented; and he was gathered to his kin.⁹ His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre,¹⁰ the field that Abraham had bought from the Hittites; there Abraham was buried, and Sarah his wife.

Gen. 22:19 Abraham then returned to his servants, and they departed together for Beer-sheba; and Abraham stayed in Beer-sheba ... **Gen. 23:1** Sarah’s lifetime—the span of Sarah’s life—came to one hundred and twenty-seven years.² Sarah died in Kiriath-arba—now Hebron—in the land of Canaan; and Abraham proceeded to mourn for Sarah and to bewail her.

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