GENESIS: Where Grace Begins
The Choosing of a Bride for Isaac
Genesis 24

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

INTRODUCTION

God's providence is evident throughout Scripture, but especially in Genesis 24.

"The providence of God is his *purposeful sovereignty* by which he will be completely successful in the achievement of his ultimate goal for the universe. God's providence carries his plans into action, guides all things toward his ultimate goal, and leads to the final consummation." (John Piper)

CONTEXT OF GENESIS 24

Abraham has just buried his wife Sarah in the purchased cave of Machpelah in the heart of the promised land. Sarah's tent is empty; there is no matriarch in Israel. Isaac, at age forty, is still single. But God had promised Abram, "I will make of you a great nation" (12:2). For this great nation to come about, Isaac, the only son of the promise, needs a wife. The purpose of Genesis 24 is to explain how Isaac acquired his wife, Rebekah.

GENESIS 24

Abraham gave his servant a commission to "Go to my country and to my kindred and get a wife for my son Isaac" (v. 4). This mission results in four distinct conflicts which must be resolved:

(1) Will the servant be able to find a suitable young woman?
(2) If he does, will her family be willing to let her go to a far country to marry a stranger?
(3) Will Rebekah be willing to go right away?
(4) Will Isaac be willing to marry this unseen bride?

As we go through this chapter in four sections, we will see God resolve these conflicts.

SECTION 1 – GENESIS 24:1-9

In the first section, there is a _____. In Genesis, 24:1-9, Abraham commissions his servant to find a wife for Isaac.

Application: Believers have the responsibility of ensuring that God's plan _____ to the _____. What is God's plan? (See Deut. 6:5-9; Psalm 78:1-8; Matthew 28:18-20) God wants the coming generations to know of his goodness and glory in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

SECTION 2 – GENESIS 24:10-27

In the second section, there is _____. In Genesis 24:10-27, the faithful servant trusted the Lord to grant him specific guidance and then witnessed the answer to his prayer. This section highlights the servant's faith, obedience, and dependence on God which is evidenced by his prayer.

Application: Believers may be confident that the Lord will _____ in their _____. If we are committed to God and His will, then we can know He will guide us as we pray. Jesus said, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (John 15:7)

SECTION 3 – GENESIS 24:28-60

In the third section, there is _____. In Genesis 24:28-60, the servant recounts the providence of God to Rebekah's family and gains their permission to take her to Isaac.

Application: Believers must give _____ to _____ God's work. Abraham's servant was dead set on accomplishing God's work for him. Is completing God's work your top priority?

SECTION 4 – GENESIS 24:61-67

In the fourth section, there is _____. In Genesis 24:61-67, Rebekah returned with the servant to become Isaac's wife. Mission complete.

Application: Believers may rest assured that the Lord will _____ the good work he has begun.

CONCLUSION

As God's children, we must take to heart that it is God's day-in, day-out providence that perpetuates the promise of Scripture's famous "Golden Chain":

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Romans 8:28–30)

This story, and all of Scripture, teaches us that our lives are not ruled by chance or fate or luck or karma, but by God. God is always faithful to his children—always!