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## Observation

This lengthy chapter continues the conclusion of the Abraham narrative (see [Gen 23:1-20](#)).

God's call and Abram's response set in motion the biblical narrative of the nation of Israel. Abram's obedience makes him an exemplar of true faith ([Heb 11:8](#)), and God's call of Abram is His first action in forming a community of faith. The blessings God promises Abram in this passage sit at the heart of the biblical story of redemption (Janzen 1993, 15). The promise of [Gen 12:3](#) that all families of the earth will be blessed through Abraham is often interpreted messianically or as a foreshadowing of the gospel's extension of salvation to all nations through Israel ([Gal 3:8](#); Brueggemann 1982, 112). Abram responds to God's call because he believes and hopes for the fulfillment of God's promise. The promised blessing has four interrelated parts: progeny, prosperity, legacy, and land. The main tension in the narrative stems from the delay in God's fulfillment of His promise to provide Abram with offspring. The core promise of land and an heir to possess it are reiterated throughout Abraham's story ([Gen 12:2-3, 7; 13:15-18; 15:3-7; 17:1-8; 18:10, 17-20](#)). From the description of the large household with which Abram left Haran ([Gen 12:5](#)), God's offer to "bless" him materially may have held little appeal, but despite his great possessions, Abram still lacked an heir at the age of 75, making it unlikely that he would father a great nation and leave a legacy for future generations ([Gen 12:2](#)). Abram's hope for an heir underscores everything he does. He may accept God's call because God promised him the one thing he still lacked.

God's call was phrased as a command—"Go!"—and Abram faced the choice between staying where he was with a barren wife or obeying God's surprising command to risk everything, trusting Him to follow through on His promise. Brueggemann notes the inherent illogic to Abram's choice: "The whole of the Abrahamic narrative is premised on this seeming contradiction: to stay in safety is to remain barren; to leave in risk is to have hope" (1982, 118). An important aspect of the promise, however, is that Abram was to trust God to follow through. Abram's part of the bargain was simply to go, blindly, where God would lead. [Genesis 12:2-3](#) emphasizes God's agency in the promise with five first-person statements: God says, "I will make you a great nation"; "I will bless you"; "I will make your name great"; "I will bless those who bless you"; "I will curse those who curse you." As time passes between the initial statement of the promise and its fulfillment (some 25 years later), Abram occasionally loses sight of the fulfillment being in God's hands, not his own.<sup>1</sup>

Abraham's servant recounts the story of his journey in precise detail. This type of repetition is common in literature that originated as oral tradition.<sup>2</sup>

We are privileged to witness through scripture the formation of Abraham's faith and trust in the Lord. It should give us hope and assurance that we are being transformed through our reading of God's word and by the

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<sup>1</sup> John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), [Ge 24:1-67](#)

<sup>2</sup> John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), [Ge 24:34-48](#).



**Week 16**  
**Genesis 24**

**Women's Bible Study -**

---

experiences in our lives that He uses to build our character and strengthen our faith and trust in Him as He did for Abraham.

*As Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians in verse 1:6 "For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." <sup>3</sup>*

1. For what did Abraham's servant pray? ([24:12-14](#))

2. How did the Lord answer the servant's prayer? ([24:15-25](#))

3. What did the servant do after the Lord had answered his prayer? ([24:26-27](#))

4. What was Laban and Bethuel's reply to Abraham's servants' story.

5. Notice the petitions/questions of the servant and the actions he takes throughout the chapter. What do you learn about how we are to pray and listen for God's answers?

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<sup>3</sup> Biblical Studies Press, [The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible](#) (Biblical Studies Press, 2005), Php 1:6.



## Interpretation

6. Considering all that you have learned in Genesis so far, why is it important that Isaac's wife was not chosen from the "daughters of the Canaanites"?

7. Considering the following scriptures, why does scripture place importance on how we choose who we marry? ([2 Corinthians 6:14](#), [Gen 28:1](#), [Exodus 34:15-16](#), [Num. 25:1-3](#), [Deut. 7:1-4](#), [Malachi 2: 11](#))

8. What does Rebekah's response say about her? ([Genesis 24:58](#))

9. Where do you see ideas that foreshadow the role Jesus Christ is to fill in the future and what do you learn about Him?

## Application

10. What specific steps can we take to ensure we are seeking God's guidance in our significant life choices, similar to how the servant did?



**Week 16**  
**Genesis 24**

**Women's Bible Study -**

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