

# Genesis 24:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.

## Analysis

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**And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, tha...** This passage is part of the Abrahamic narratives which shift from universal human history to God's particular covenant people. The Abraham cycle (Genesis 12-25) demonstrates God's sovereign election, covenant faithfulness, and the development of faith through testing and promise fulfillment.

Central themes include God's unconditional covenant promises (land, descendants, blessing to nations), the call to faith and obedience, the testing of faith through delays and impossibilities, the contrast between divine promises and human schemes, and God's gracious persistence despite human failures. Abraham emerges as the father of faith whose trust in God's promises becomes the model for all believers (Romans 4, Galatians 3, Hebrews 11).

Theologically, these narratives establish:

1. salvation by grace through faith rather than works
2. covenant as God's gracious initiative binding Himself to His people
3. the necessity of patient trust when promises seem impossible

4. the consequences of attempting to fulfill God's promises through human effort
5. the pattern of divine testing producing mature faith.

The Abraham cycle foreshadows Christ as the ultimate seed through whom blessing extends to all nations (Galatians 3:16).

## **Historical Context**

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The patriarchal narratives (Genesis 12-50) reflect the cultural, social, and legal customs of the ancient Near East during the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 BCE). Archaeological discoveries including the Mari tablets, Nuzi tablets, and Egyptian records confirm many details: nomadic pastoralism, covenant-making ceremonies, marriage customs, property laws, and international travel patterns described in Genesis.

The cultural practices reflected include: treaty/covenant forms (Genesis 15), bride-price customs (Genesis 24, 29), inheritance laws favoring firstborn sons (Genesis 25, 27), adoption practices (Genesis 15, 30), levirate-type arrangements (Genesis 38), and Egyptian administrative systems (Genesis 41, 47). These parallels confirm Genesis's historical reliability while showing how God worked within ancient cultural frameworks to accomplish His purposes.

For later Israelites, these narratives established their identity as Abraham's descendants, explained their claim to Canaan, justified their possession of Joseph's bones (Exodus 13:19), and provided models of faith despite imperfection. The patriarchs' failures and God's faithfulness encouraged Israel that covenant relationship depended on God's grace rather than human merit. The movement from Mesopotamia to Canaan to Egypt set the stage for the Exodus and conquest narratives.

## **Related Passages**

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What theological truths about Isaac's Marriage emerge from this passage?
2. How does this passage challenge modern cultural assumptions about identity, purpose, or morality?
3. In what ways does this narrative foreshadow or typify aspects of Christ's redemptive work?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיֹאמֶר הַנְּגָעֵב אֲשֶׁר רָאָה וְיֹאמֶר הַנְּגָעֵב אֲלֵיכָה

H1961 And let it come to pass that the damsel H834 and she shall say H413

H5291

H559

לְתַלְתָּן אֶת כֶּדֶם שְׁתַת הַנְּגָעֵב אֲשֶׁר

Let down thy pitcher Drink and she shall say Drink H1571

H4994

thy pitcher

Drink

and she shall say

H8354

תְּמַלֵּל יְתַת הַנְּגָעֵב אֲשֶׁר קָרָא הַנְּגָעֵב חַתָּה  
thy camels and I will give also let the same be she that thou hast appointed

H1581

H8248

H3198

לְעַבְדָּךְ לִזְכָּר אֶת עַד יְדֵךְ כִּי  
for thy servant Isaac and thereby shall I know H3588

H5650

Isaac

H0

and thereby shall I know

H3045

נָשָׁת יְתַת תְּדַבֵּר עַמְּךָ אֶל דָּתִי  
that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master

H6213

H2617

H5973

H113

## Additional Cross-References

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**Judges 6:37** (Parallel theme): Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said.

**Judges 6:17** (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

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