

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

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

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

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

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

וְהָיָה הַ	הַנֶּעֱבֵר	אֲשֶׁר	וְאָמְרָה	אֵלַי יְהוָה
H1961	H5291	H834	H559	H413
And let it come to pass that the damsel		and she shall say		
וְהָיָה הַ	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה
H5186	H4994	H3537	H8354	H1571
Let down thy pitcher	Drink	and she shall say	Drink	
וְהָיָה הַ	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה
H1581	H8248	H853	H3198	
thy camels and I will give	also let the same be she that thou hast appointed			
וְהָיָה הַ	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה
H5650	H3327	H0	H3045	H3588
for thy servant Isaac	and thereby shall I know			
וְהָיָה הַ	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה	וְאָמְרָה
H6213	H2617	H5973	H113	
that thou hast shewed kindness	unto my master			

Additional Cross-References

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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