

Genesis 24:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he hear... 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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen our understanding of God's character and His relationship with creation?
2. What specific changes in thinking or behavior does this verse call us to make?
3. What connections can we trace from this verse to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי יוֹ	כָּרָא ת	אֶת	הַנֶּזֶם	וְאֶת	הַצַּמָּדִים		
H1961	And it came to pass when he saw	H853	the earring	H853	and bracelets		
	H7200		H5141		H6781		
עַל	יְדֵי י	אָחִיתוֹ	וּכְשָׁמַע ו	אֶת	דִּבְרֵי י	רַבֶּקָּה ה	אָחִיתוֹ
by	hands	his sister	and when he heard	H853	the words	of Rebekah	his sister
H5921	H3027	H269	H8085		H1697	H7259	H269
לֵאמֹר	כֹּה	דָּבָר ר	אֵל י	הָאִישׁ	וַיָּבֹא	אֶל	הָאִישׁ
saying	Thus	spake	H413	the man	unto me that he came	H413	the man
H559	H3541	H1696		H376	H935		H376
וַהֲנִי ה	עֹמֵד	עַל	הַגָּמְלִים	עַל	בְּעֵין:		
H2009	and behold he stood	by	the camels	by	at the well		
	H5975	H5921	H1581	H5921	H5869		