

Genesis 24:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper my way which I go:

Analysis

And I came this day unto the well, and said, O LORD God of my master Abraham, if now thou do prosper... 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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse contribute to the biblical doctrine of creation, fall, or redemption?
2. How should this truth about Servant's Faith shape our daily decisions and priorities?
3. In what ways does this narrative foreshadow or typify aspects of Christ's redemptive work?

Interlinear Text

וָאֵבָרְךָ אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה	וָאֵבָרְךָ אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה	וָאֵבָרְךָ אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה	וָאֵבָרְךָ אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה	וָאֵבָרְךָ אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה	וָאֵבָרְךָ אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה	וָאֵבָרְךָ אֱלֹהֵי יְהוָה
And I came	this day	unto the well	and said	O LORD	God	
H935	H3117	H5869	H559	H3068	H430	
אֲדֹנָיִי	אַבְרָהָם	אִם	יְשֻׁבְךָ	נָא	מִצְלֵי יָמִי	דְּרָכֵי יְהוָה
of my master	Abraham	if now thou do			prosper	my way
H113	H85	H518	H3426	H4994	H6743	H1870
אֲשֶׁר	אֲנִי	הֵלֵךְ	עָלֶיךָ			
H834	H595	which I go	H5921			
		H1980				

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 1:11 (References Lord): O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

Psalms 90:17 (References God): And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Psalms 37:5 (References Lord): Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Romans 1:10 (References God): Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

Ezra 8:21 (References God): Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

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