

Genesis 24:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, which had led me in the right way to take my master's brother's daughter unto his son.

Analysis

And I bowed down my head, and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, wh... 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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does this passage reveal about God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
2. What specific changes in thinking or behavior does this verse call us to make?
3. How does this passage point forward to Christ and the gospel of redemption?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶקְרָב	וְאֶשְׁפְּתִּחְנָן	וְיָהִי	אָתָּה	וְאָבָבָנָה	וְיָהִי
And I bowed down my head	and worshipped	the LORD	and blessed	H853	the LORD
H6915	H7812	H3068	H1288		H3068
אֱלֹהִי	אָשֶׁר אָבָבָנָה מִן	הַמְּנֻמָּד	בְּדַרְתָּה		
God	my master's	Abraham	which had led me	way	
H430	H113	H85	H834	H5148	H1870
אֶת	בְּתִי	אֶת	אֶת	אֶת	לְבָנָה:
in the right	to take	H853	daughter	brother's	my master's
H571	H3947		H1323	H251	H113
אֶת	אֶת	אֶת	אֶת	אֶת	unto his son
					H1121

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 48:14 (References God): For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

Psalms 32:8 (Parallel theme): I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Genesis 24:52 (Worship): And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

Isaiah 48:17 (References God): Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Genesis 22:23 (References Abraham): And Bethuel begat Rebekah: these eight Milcah did bear to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

