



Genesis 24:29-67

# SUCCESS ACCORDING TO GOD

The Hebrew root **brk** [“bless”] occurs 327x verbally in the OT. Its highest concentrations occur in Genesis, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and Psalms... It must be stressed that nothing was more important than securing the blessing of God in one’s life or nation... A blessed life was the ideal; a life without God’s blessing was the ultimate nightmare. Real success was impossible without the much-coveted blessing. **Where modern man talks of success, OT man talked of blessing...** God’s blessing is his formative, empowering word, often with overtones of appointing destiny. It is not an empty pronouncement or simply an expression of wish or goodwill... Rather, the blessing of God has content; it actualizes and enables... **That which is blessed functions and produces at the optimum level, fulfilling its divinely designated purpose.**  
—Michael L. Brown, *The Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*

Genesis 23-25 form a transition in the narrative from Abraham and Sarah to Isaac and Rebekah. In these three chapters, we will see the deaths of Sarah and Abraham and the marriage of Isaac to Rebekah.

- A Abraham Is Blessed by the Lord in All Things (24:1)
- B The Servant Receives His Task from Abraham (24:2-9)
- C The Servant Journeys to Mesopotamia for Isaac’s Wife (24:10-11)
- D The Servant Prays at the Well (24:12-14)
  - E Rebekah Willingly Serves (24:15-21)
    - F The Servant Gives Praise and Gifts (24:22-28)
    - G Laban Greedily Offers Hospitality (24:29-31)
    - H THE SERVANT TELLS OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS (24:32-49)
    - G Laban Hesitantly Offers Rebekah (24:50-51)
    - F The Servant Gives Praise and Gifts (24:52-53)
  - E Rebekah Willingly Goes (24:54-61)
  - D Isaac Prays in the Field (24:62-63)
- C The Servant Returns to Canaan with Rebekah (24:64-65)
- B The Servant Reports on His Task to Isaac (24:66)
- A Isaac Is Blessed by the Lord with a Wife (24:67)

Genesis 24 is the longest chapter in Genesis. It is not only a beautiful love story but it also highlights God’s sovereign providence in fulfilling His covenant promises. True success is being aligned with His purpose.

## SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR A TRULY SUCCESSFUL LIFE

1. E \_\_\_\_\_ God’s covenant promises.

All that Abraham and the servant seek to accomplish in this story is motivated, directed, and guided by God’s covenant promises (24:1-9).

*I must know and embrace God’s covenant promises.*

*Success is the achievement of a desired result or outcome; the accomplishment of an aim or purpose. In later use: the attainment of wealth and social status.*

—Oxford English Dictionary

**Success.** Hebrew, *tsalach*, “to advance, prosper, succeed, be profitable.” Used 65x in the OT, 7x in Genesis, 4x in Gen. 24. It is used when the Spirit of the Lord comes upon a person (cf. Judges 14:6, 19; 15:14; 1 Sam. 10:10; 11:6; 16:13). It is also used to describe a life that fulfills God’s purpose (Joshua 1:8; Neh. 1:11; Ps. 1:3; Is. 53:10).

*Gen. 24 teaches a spirituality that pervades the OT, though rarely made so explicit as in this story. Abraham’s servant is a man who prays before he acts, praises when his prayers are answered, and lives ever conscious that the affairs of men are controlled by the hand of God.* —Gordon Wenham

*In faith, Abraham orients his entire life, even at death, on God’s promise (12:1-7). A life committed to seeking God’s kingdom will experience God’s good hand (Mt. 6:33).*

—Bruce K. Waltke

**2. L\_\_\_\_\_ out for false prophets!**

Laban (“white”), Rebekah’s brother, is introduced in this story as a man motivated, directed, and guided by personal greed (24:29-31).

*I must beware of those who speak blessing but seek gain.*

**3. S\_\_\_\_\_ focused on your mission.**

The servant avoids Laban’s false intentions by keeping his mission at the forefront of his mind (24:32-33).

*I must stay focused on God’s mission in the midst of the world’s distractions.*

**4. D\_\_\_\_\_ God’s love and faithfulness!**

The servant takes time to recount and declare God’s love and faithfulness to all those around (24:34-49).

*I must recount and declare God’s love and faithfulness in my life!*

**5. B\_\_\_\_\_ to go where God leads.**

Rebekah’s mother and brother try to delay Rebekah’s departure but the servant persists and Rebekah, by faith, chooses to go (24:50-61).

*I must surrender my life to the Lord and be willing to follow Him.*

**6. S\_\_\_\_\_ and take time to grieve.**

In the whole account of Sarah’s death, Isaac is not mentioned. When we finally see him, he is meditating in the field at night (24:62-63).

*I must allow my heart to grieve the losses that I encounter in this life.*

**7. E\_\_\_\_\_ God’s good gifts in life!**

Though having never met before, Isaac and Rebekah fall in love and enjoy the good gift of marriage and intimacy together (24:64-67).

*I need to acknowledge God’s blessings in my life and enjoy them!*

*Laban’s actions are motivated by greed, not pure hospitality. The warmth of his welcome is prompted by the prospect of further enrichment... Laban’s motives are underlined by the final comment showing what Laban noticed about the servant: “there he was standing by the camels.” Camels were in this period a rare and luxurious type of transport.*

—Gordon Wenham

*A striking feature of this story is that...the writer allows the servant to retell the narrative. As we overhear the servant recount more details, we see that the miracle of God’s provision was even more grand than that suggested in the narrative itself.* —John Sailhamer

**Kindness.** Hebrew, *chesed*, “love, grace, mercy, compassion, zeal for someone” (24:12, 14, 27, 49).

**Faithfulness.** Hebrew, *emet*, from verb *aman*, “firmness, reliability, stability, truth” (24:27, 48, 49).

*Chesed* and *emet* are coupled together 51x in the OT. Together they describe God’s essential character (Ex. 34:6) and His covenant faithfulness (Ps. 89:24-37).

**I will go.** *This is the most decisive remark in the narrative. Seemingly against her family’s wishes, Rebekah complies with the Lord’s direction, matching Abraham’s faith to leave the family (12:1,4).*

—Bruce K. Waltke

*Grief is the price we pay for love.*

—Queen Elizabeth II

*The affection of Isaac was tender and gentle; and his love to his mother was of no common kind, seeing he had so long lamented her death.* —John Calvin