

Lesson XII.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

March 23, 1913

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Ch. XXIII. tells of the death of Sarah and her burial in the cave of the field of Machpelah. Abraham is now old. He desires that Isaac shall not take a wife from among the Canaanites. He calls his servant and makes him solemnly promise that he will go and get Isaac a wife from Abraham's own people.

GOLDEN TEXT—In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.—Proverbs 3 : 6.

Memorize vs. 64, 65. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Genesis 24 : 58-67. Study Genesis, ch. 24.

58 And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.

59 And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men.

60 And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.

61 And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man : and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahai-roi : for he dwelt in the south country.

63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at

Revised Version—*Omit* Thou art ; *ten thousands ; *Beer-lahai-roi ; *land of the South ; *there were camels coming ; *And ; *Omit had ; *and she took her veil ; *the.

Daily Readings—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association. Mr. S. C. Bailey, Secretary, 26 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—Isaac and Rebekah, Gen. 24 : 58-67. T.—The oath, Gen. 24 : 1-9. W.—Seeking divine guidance, Gen. 24 : 19-14. Th.—God's guidance recognized, Gen. 24 : 17-28. F.—Chosen by God, Gen. 24 : 48-57. S.—Blessed by God, Ps. 123. S.—Trust in the Lord, Prov. 3 : 1-17.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED



PALESTINE GIRL WITH
WATER JAR

I. REBEKAH ACCEPTS ISAAC'S PROPOSAL.—58-60. And they called Rebekah.

Note the following previous steps in the story : (1) The servant of Abraham (probably Eliezer of Damascus, Gen. 15 : 2) goes "to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nabor," v. 10. (2) Standing at the well outside the city, he asks God for divine direction in his mission and seeks a sign, v. 12.

(3) The sign is that the woman designed by God for Isaac's wife will come to the well and when asked by Abraham's servant for a sip of water, will not only give him abundance of

water, but will insist on watering his camels also. The sign is that of hospitality that goes beyond the little asked for. (4) Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nabor, Abraham's brother, comes to the well and fulfils the sign, v. 15. (5) The servant gives presents to her, and finds out who the damsel is, v. 22. (6) Rebekah tells her brother Laban ; and Abraham's servant being invited to abide with them, tells his mission, v. 34. (7) Laban and Bethuel decide that Rebekah shall be given to Isaac. Rebekah is called, not to consent to the proposal, but to say whether she is ready to start off with the servant of Abraham, who is anxious that there shall be no delay.

Rebekah and Isaac, according to Eastern custom, do not choose one another, but are chosen for one another, by others. She said, I will go. There is neither doubt nor hesitation on Rebekah's part. They sent away . . . their sister, Bethuel, the father, takes no part in the incident, but Laban, the brother, is evidently the leading spirit ; hence it is Rebekah's relationship to him that is mentioned. Her nurse. We learn in Gen. 35 : 8 that her name was Deborah. They blessed Rebekah ; a farewell benediction. Be thou the mother of thousands of millions ; literally, "become thou thousands," etc. Possess the gate of those which hate them ; conquer and take possession of the cities of their enemies. See God's blessing of Abraham, Gen. 22 : 17.

II. REBEKAH BECOMES ISAAC'S WIFE.—61-67. Her damsels ; her attendants. Although Rebekah played the part of a servant at the well, she is a woman of rank. And Isaac came ; better, "Isaac had come," that is, before the servant arrived. From the way of the well Lahai-roi. The meaning of the name is, "the well of the living One who seeth me ;" this name was given to the well where the angel of the Lord met Hagar, Gen. 16 : 14. In the south country ; the land of the South, the Negeb. To meditate. Abraham and Jacob were men of power. One was the mighty pilgrim, the other was the mighty wrestler. Isaac, who stood between, is a man of quiet, meditative spirit. Field ; open country. At the eventide ; the cool of the day. She lighted off the camel. Rebekah did not know who Isaac was, but his dress would show him to be a person of importance. She may have had some idea that he was Isaac. At any rate, according to custom she alights to veil herself and show respect. Took a veil, and covered herself. Eastern ideas of propriety called for this before a stranger. "The bridegroom can