

Genesis 24 : 58-67. Study Genesis, ch. 14.—Memory Verses, 64, 65.

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



THE LESSON RETOLD

When Isaac grew up, his father, who did not wish him to marry a heathen woman of Canaan, sent a trusted old servant to his old home in Haran to bring back one of his own kin as a wife for Isaac.

"But perhaps I cannot find any one who would be willing to come," said the servant. But Abraham told him that God would help him to find a good wife for Isaac. Still, if she would not be willing to leave her home and kindred, Abraham would excuse his servant from his promise.

So the old servant set out on his journey, taking with him beautiful presents of gold and jewels. At last, one evening, he came to the city where Abraham used to live. Outside of it was a well where the girls and women came every evening to draw water. The servant decided he would ask one of them to be his young master's wife ; so he

prayed to God to direct him. He said, "Let it come to pass that the maiden to whom I shall say, 'Let down thy pitcher I pray thee, that I may drink,' and she shall answer, 'Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also,' let her be the one Thou hast chosen for Thy servant Isaac."

As the old man finished praying he saw a beautiful maiden named Rebekah walking towards the well. When she had filled her pitcher he addressed her as he had planned, and Rebekah answered, "Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also." Then the servant knew that this was the woman whom God had chosen, so he asked whose daughter she was and if there was room in her father's house for him to spend the night. And she told him that there was room and that she was the daughter of Bethuel. Then the servant praised God for helping him to find this maiden, for she was one of Abraham's own relations, Bethuel being his nephew.

So the old servant went with Rebekah to her home and told her family what he had come for and who had sent him and how the Lord had led him all the way, and he asked them if they would let Rebekah go back with him to Canaan. And they said they could not refuse since the Lord had shown so plainly that it was His will she should go. Then they called Rebekah and asked her if she would go far away to Canaan to be Isaac's wife, and she said at once, "I will go."

So Rebekah left her home and her relations, and with her nurse, started on the long journey across the desert with the old servant. At last, one evening, they came into the land of Canaan, and there they met Isaac walking towards them across the fields. When Rebekah heard who it was, she got down from the camel, and covering herself with a veil went to meet him. As soon as Isaac saw the beautiful maiden, he loved her, and taking her to his mother's tent he married her, and there they lived happily for many years.