

LESSON IV.

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

October 27, 1918

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—Old age came on Abraham. The hopes of the future depended on Isaac. A marriage with a heathen Canaanitish woman would imperil all. Abraham commands his steward, Eliezer, to find a wife for Isaac from among his own people in Haran.

GOLDEN TEXT—Let not mercy and truth forsake thee . . . so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.—Proverbs 3 : 3, 4.

*Memorize Matt. 25 : 35, 36. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Genesis 24 : 57-67. Study Genesis, ch. 24.

57 And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth.

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

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

60 And they blessed Rebek'ah, 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 Rebek'ah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man : and the servant took Rebek'ah, and went his way.

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

Revised Version—¹Our sister ; ²ten thousands ; ³Beer-lahai-roi ; ⁴land of the South ; ⁵there were camels coming ; ⁶And she said ; ⁷Omit had ; ⁸and she took her veil ; ⁹the.

63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide : and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, ⁶the camels were coming.

64 And Rebek'ah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel.

65 ⁶For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master : ⁸therefore she took a veil, and covered herself.

66 And the servant told Isaac all ⁹things that he had done.

67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sar'ah's tent, and took Rebek'ah, and she became his wife ; and he loved her : and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

M.—Isaac and Rebekah, Gen. 24 : 57-67.

T.—Institution of marriage, Gen. 2 : 18-24.

W.—Duty of husbands and wives, Eph. 5 : 22-33.

S.—Noble womanhood, Prov. 31 : 10-31.

Th.—Divine regulation of marriage, 1 Cor. 7:10-17.

F.—Christ and divorce, Matt. 19 : 3-9.

S.—Jesus and the Samaritan woman, John 4:5-19.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE DECISION.—57. They said ; Laban, the brother, and Bethuel, the father, of Rebekah. Bethuel was the son of Nahor, Abraham's brother. **Call the damsel.** Following Abraham's command, Eliezer came to a well near Nahor's city. Eliezer asked God for a guiding sign. The wife chosen of God was to say, "Drink deeply, my lord," when he said, "Give me only a sip," thus showing courtesy in manner, deed and word. She was also to say, "I will draw for thy camels," thus showing kindness to weary animals, and energy, for there were ten camels, and a camel takes a store, not a sip of water. Rebekah, fair to look upon and pure, came and said and did these very things. But was she of Abraham's people? That was Eliezer's next thought. She was, and Eliezer thanked God that this was a marriage made in heaven. Then he went to her father's house. Before taking food he told his mission, his God-given sign, and asked Rebekah for Isaac. Next meaning Rebekah's friends asked ten days' delay. Eliezer said, "Now," so Rebekah was called in to answer for herself. **Enquire at her mouth ;** ask her face to face.

58. **Wilt thou go . . . I will.** Eliezer, the faithful, prayerful servant must have impressed her deeply in favor of the unknown Isaac. She has the courage to trust this impression and leave a rich home and kind friends immediately. God was leading her as well as Eliezer.

II. THE DEPARTURE.—59-61. **And her nurse.** Deborah. The name means "busy bee." **Blessed Rebekah ;** wished her happiness in the name of God. **The mother of thousands of ten thousands** (Rev.

Ver.) The Oriental glories in the thought of many descendants. **Possess the gate.** The possessors of the gates in the walls of a city are its masters ; an Oriental way of wishing power over one's enemies.

And her damsels. Rebekah took servants as well as her nurse. **The servant took Rebekah ;** Eliezer having accomplished his master's mission.

III. THE MEETING.—62, 63. **Isaac ;** name means "laughter." **Way of the well.** In the interval, Isaac had come through the wilderness to the well Lahai-roi, meaning "the well of the living God who seeth me," so called by Hagar because there God had seen and helped her in her distress, ch. 16 : 14. **In the south country ;** down towards Egypt. **Went out to meditate ;** to pray and ponder. Isaac is not of the same order as Abraham the imperial pilgrim, or Jacob the mighty wrestler. Constitutionally he was



PALESTINIAN GIRL WITH WATER JAR

* For the recitation of the Scripture Memory Passages in either Part of List IV., a Red Seal is added to the Diploma in Colors given for List III., and a Gold Seal for the verses of the other Part. For Form of Application, apply to Rev. J. C. Robertson, D.D., our General Secretary for Sabbath Schools, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto.