

Genesis 24

Verses 1-9

Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in every way. ² Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household who was in charge of all that he owned, “Please place your hand under my thigh, ³ and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live; ⁴ but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.” ⁵ The servant said to him, “Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came?” ⁶ Then Abraham said to him, “Beware that you do not take my son back there! ⁷ The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and who swore to me, saying, ‘To your descendants I will give this land’—He will send His angel ahead of you, and you will take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free of this oath of mine; only do not take my son back there.” ⁹ So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham, and swore to him concerning this matter.

Now Abraham was old, advanced in age See chart 2405

Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
11	Terah	Terah dies	205	1921
12	Abraham	Leaves Harran	75	1921
12	Abraham	She is my sister (1st time)	75	1921
13-14		Abraham rescues Lot		
16	Abraham	Ismael born	86	1910
17	Abraham	Circumcision	99	1897
18-19	Lot	Sodom and Gomorrah	99	1897
20	Abraham	She is my sister (2nd time)	99	1897
21	Abraham	Isaac born	100	1896
22	Abraham	Abraham Tested	120	1876
23	Sarah	Sarah dies	127	1859
24	Isaac	Marries Rebekah	40	1856
25	Isaac	Esau and Jacob born	60	1836
25	Abraham	Abraham dies	175	1821

Isaac is 40 years old in this chapter so Abraham has to be 140

Abraham will live for another 35 years but these are the last recorded words of Abraham

Abraham said to his servant, ... swear by the Lord, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites; ⁴ but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac

His mission at this point in his life was to find a wife for his only son

Abraham did not see any of the Canaanite women as a possible mate

So his servant was sent to Abraham's country and his relatives to find him a wife

And his servant had to take a sacred oath that that was what he would do

The servant said to him, "Suppose the woman is not willing to follow me to this land; should I take your son back to the land from where you came?" ⁶ Then Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there!

The servant of Abraham was afraid that he might fail at his mission

Not because of any fault on his part, but because the woman might object to leaving her country and home.

So he suggested to Abraham that maybe Isaac could get her to come back with him

But Abraham wanted nothing to do with that option

He may have feared that Isaac might decide to stay in her country and thereby miss out on the promise that God made to Abraham and his descendants

The Lord will send His angel ahead of you, and you will take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free of this oath of mine

Abraham told his servant that God would direct his way in finding a wife for Isaac

But it was her choice to decide whether to stay at home or come to Canaan

If she stayed at home, the servant was not responsible in any way

Verses 10-14

¹⁰ Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and went out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; so he set out and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water when it was evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, "Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water; ¹⁴ now may it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also'—*may she be the one* whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."

Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master

Owning Camels was a sign of great wealth

See Job 1:3

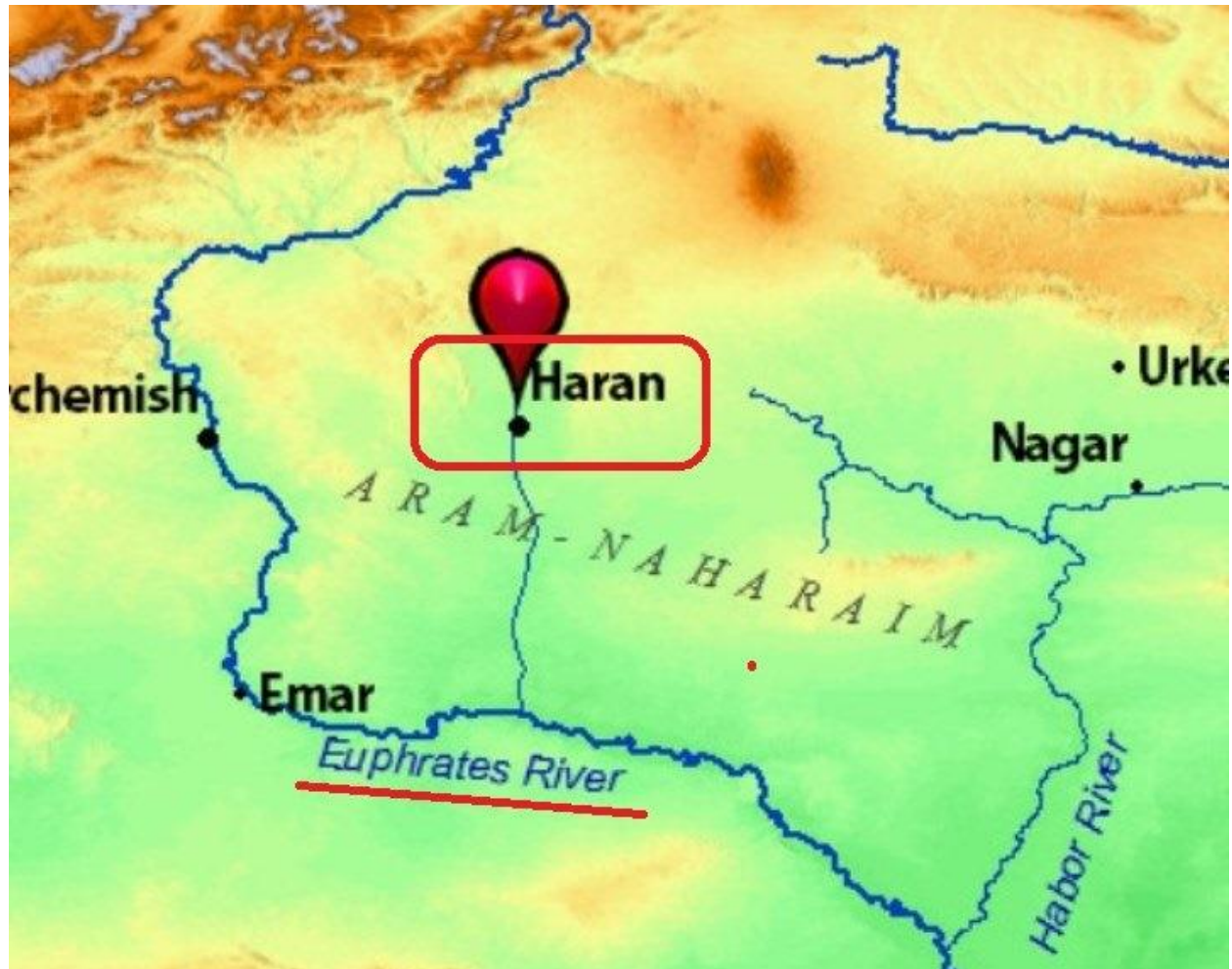
So he set out and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor

See Map 2410 and 2415



This was a trip of about 400 miles as the crow flies

Map 2415



Nothing was said of Nahor going to Haran with Terah and Abraham in Genesis 11:31

But at some point Nahor founded a city near Haran

See Genesis 27:43, 28:2, and 29:4

This kind of thing happens quite a bit in the bible

We discover new details about prior events as the story of Israel unfolds in bible

This adds an element of surprise and interest for the reader

And he said, “Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham

Abraham’s servant has pretty sharp

He knew that by asking God to show kindness to his master, he was insured to have success in his mission

Now may it be that the young woman to whom I say, ‘Please let down your jar so that I may drink,’ and who answers, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels also’—*may she be the one* whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac

The test that he devised was quite clever

Because it showed the character, attitude, and personality of the woman to be chosen

This water test was smart in another way

It was a demanding test

Drawing water for ten camels, when they are tired and thirsty, borders on heroic

They can drink 30 gallons of water in 10 minutes

That would be 300 gallons of water for the 10 camels

Verses 15-21

¹⁵ And it came about, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder. ¹⁶ The young woman was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had had relations with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, “Please let me drink a little water from your jar.” ¹⁸ And she said, “Drink, my lord”; then she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will also draw *water* for your camels until they have finished drinking.” ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ Meanwhile, the man was taking a close look at her in silence, to find out whether the Lord had made his journey successful or not.

And it came about, before he had finished speaking

In verse 14 the servant prayed to God for the woman to say something very specific

He would say..... **Please let down your jar so that I may drink**

Then she would say..... **Drink and I will water your camels also**

God had answered his prayer before he was done speaking

Meanwhile, the man was taking a close look at her in silence, to find out whether the Lord had made his journey successful or not.

OK, this guy set up a good test, but now he was missing the obvious

She said exactly what he had asked God that she might say

What was there to think about?

Maybe he wanted to see if she would do what she had promised

Verses 22 - 27

²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold, ²³ and he said, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to stay overnight at your father’s house?” ²⁴ She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah’s son, whom she bore to Nahor.” ²⁵ Again she said to him, “We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to stay overnight.” ²⁶ Then the man bowed low and worshiped the Lord. ²⁷ And he said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned His kindness and His trustworthiness toward my master; as for me, the Lord has guided me in the way to the house of my master’s brothers.”

The man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold

It turned out that this beautiful young woman also had a servant’s heart

And Abraham’s servant chose Rebekah to be the wife of Isaac at that very moment

Whose daughter are you?

Nahor is the brother of Abraham and Milcah is his wife

Bethuel is the 8th son of Nahor and Milcah

And Rebekah is the daughter of Bethuel

Isaac is 40 years old when he marries Rebecca but her number is unlisted

See Genesis 25:20

Again she said to him, “We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to stay overnight.

Interesting that the servant asked her and that she invited them to stay before the head of the household was consulted.

Did both of them forget that it was a male dominated society as is often suggested?

There are other examples that should make us question this idea

The Lord has guided me in the way to the house of my master’s brothers.”

God had blessed Abraham and his servant

Verses 28-32

²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother’s household about these things. ²⁹ Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring. ³⁰ When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, “This is what the man said to me,” he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. ³¹ And he said, “Come in, blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside, since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?” ³² So the man entered the house. Then Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

Then the young woman ran and told her mother's household about these things.

She ran ahead to tell the family about what had happened

It says she went to her mother's household

Perhaps her father, Bethuel, had already passed away

Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring

Laban was probably the "head of the household". But being head of the household does not mean you make all of the decisions.

When he greets the guests, the decision that they would stay overnight had already been made, and he simply encourages them to stay the night

He went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring

Abraham's servant did not follow Rebekah, but stayed at the well

And he said, "Come in, blessed of the Lord! Why do you stand outside, since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?"

Rebekah must have mentioned the thanks that the servant gave to The Lord

Because as far as we know, Laban didn't know much about The Lord

See Genesis 30:27 and 31:19

Then Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

This scene should remind us of how Abraham treated his visitors

Abraham ran about quickly to meet all of their needs and so does Laban

It seems the people of that time held visitors in high esteem

Verses 33-49

³³ But when *food* was set before him to eat, he said, “I will not eat until I have stated my business.” And he said, “Speak on.” ³⁴ So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. ³⁵ The Lord has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and slave women, and camels and donkeys. ³⁶ Now my master’s wife Sarah bore a son to my master in her old age, and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸ but you shall go to my father’s house and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son.’ ³⁹ Then I said to my master, ‘Suppose the woman does not follow me.’ ⁴⁰ And he said to me, ‘The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send His angel with you to make your journey successful, and you will take a wife for my son from my relatives and from my father’s house; ⁴¹ then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my relatives; and if they do not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.’

⁴² “So I came today to the spring, and said, ‘Lord, God of my master Abraham, if now You will make my journey on which I have been going successful; ⁴³ behold, I am standing by the spring, and may it be that the young unmarried woman who comes out to draw *water*, and to whom I say, “Please let me drink a little water from your jar”; ⁴⁴ and she says to me, “You drink, and I will draw for your camels also”—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

⁴⁵ “Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew *water*, and I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ ⁴⁶ She quickly lowered her jar from her *shoulder*, and said, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels also’; so I drank, and she watered the camels also. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, and said, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ And she said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him’; and I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her wrists. ⁴⁸ And I bowed low and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had guided me in the right way to take the daughter of my master’s brother for his son. ⁴⁹ So now if you are going to deal kindly and truthfully with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me now, so that I may turn to the right or the left.”

These verses are a summary of what has already happened and need no comment except for verses 33 and 49

This servant of Abraham is really focused on his mission and he demanded a decision from Rebekah and the family before he can eat even a bite of the meal

Verses 50-58

⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel replied, “The matter has come from the Lord; so we cannot speak to you bad or good. ⁵¹ Here is Rebekah before you, take *her* and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has spoken.”

⁵² When Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the Lord. ⁵³ And the servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother. ⁵⁴ Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they got up in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.” ⁵⁵ But her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman stay with us a few days, say ten; afterward she may go.” ⁵⁶ However, he said to them, “Do not delay me, since the Lord has prospered my way. Send me away so that I may go to my master.” ⁵⁷ And they said, “We will call the young woman and ask her.” ⁵⁸ Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” And she said, “I will go.”

Then Laban and Bethuel replied

This Bethuel must be a younger brother of Laban

Because if her father was still alive, there would be no reason for Laban to reply

Take *her* and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has spoken.”

Her brothers recognize this union is from God and give their blessing to the marriage

And the servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

Rebekah, Laban and their mother are given gifts

If her father Bethuel was still alive he would have received these “precious things”.

But in his absence it went to his wife, and eldest son

Of course Rebekah received the greater gifts

Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night

Everyone spends the night there except Rebekah

But her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman stay with us a few days, say ten; afterward she may go

Rebekah’s mother and Laban want some time to say goodbye

However, he said to them, “Do not delay me, since the Lord has prospered my way

This servant of Abraham really has a choleric (type A) personality

Get there, make the sale, and go home. That’s all that is required

Then they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” And she said, “I will go.”

She had not met or talked with Isaac

So, she made this decision on very little information

But she trusted that this was from God and did not need any more time

Verse 59-60

⁵⁹ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

**“May you, our sister,
Become thousands of ten thousands,
And may your descendants possess
The gate of those who hate them.”**

So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse

The they here, must be Laban and his brother Bethuel

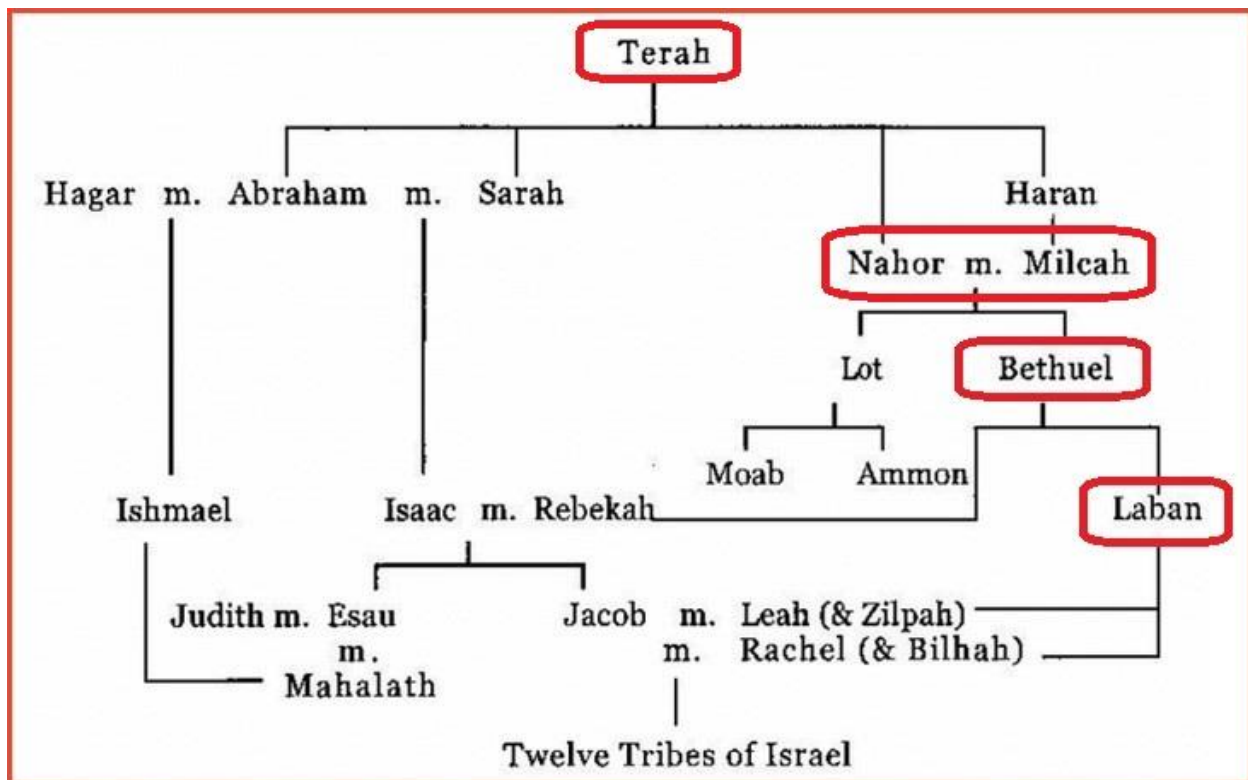
The fact that she had a nurse shows that the family had some wealth

Her nurse was named Deborah

See Genesis 35:8

This is the family tree from Terah to Laban

See pic 2425



And may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them.”

These words were spoken by God to Abraham at the sacrifice of Isaac

See Genesis 22:17

Verses 61-67

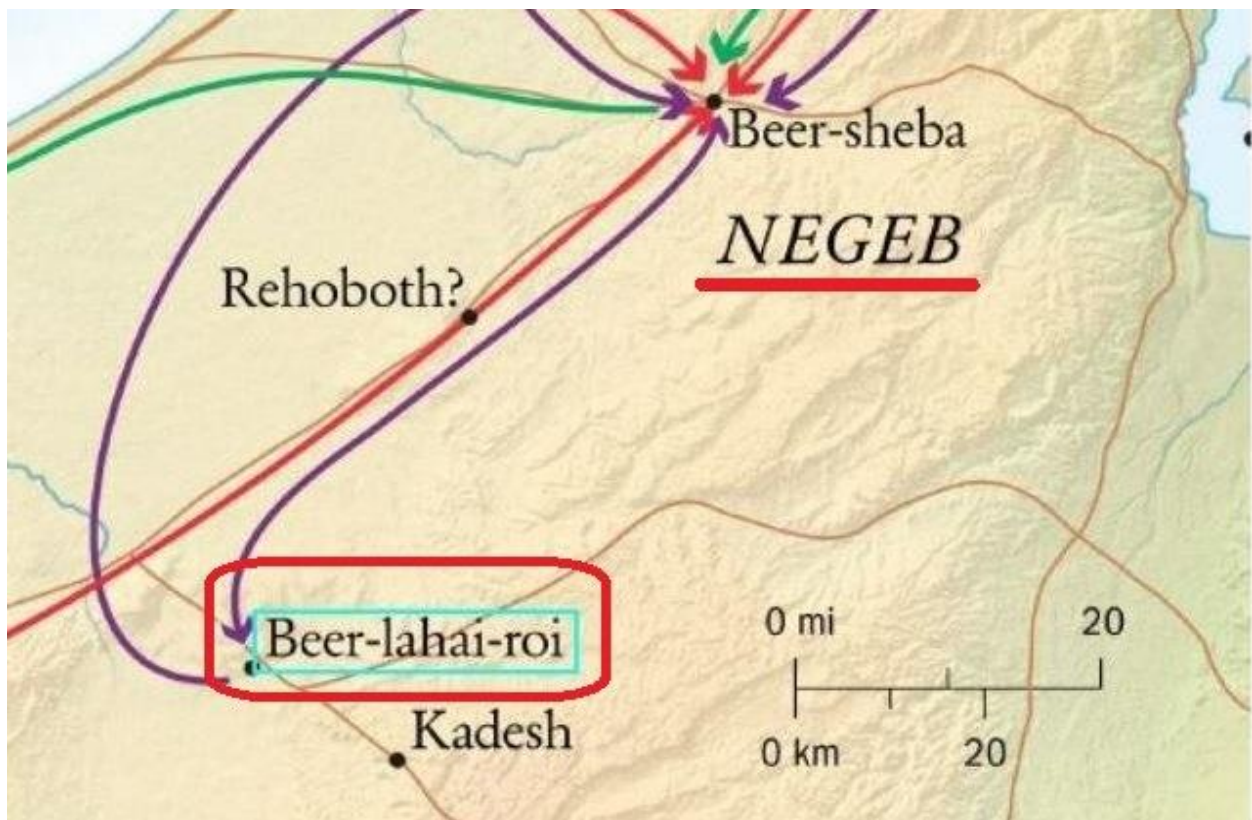
⁶¹ Then Rebekah got up with her female attendants, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed. ⁶² Now Isaac had come *back* from a journey to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev. ⁶³ Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he raised his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming. ⁶⁴ Rebekah raised her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel. ⁶⁵ She said to the servant, “Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?” And the servant said, “He is my master.” Then she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; so Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Then Rebekah got up with her female attendants

Rebekah had all the advantages that a wealthy family had to offer

⁶² Now Isaac had come *back* from a journey to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev.

See map 2430



Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening

It seems Isaac was a thoughtful man

I know ladies, that is an oxymoron 😊😊

The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done

It was important for Isaac to know of God's hand in this

Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent

Sarah had passed away, and Isaac is now in possession of the tent

But it is Interesting that Sarah had her own tent