Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Genesis 23:1-25:18
- James 5:16
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Ephesians 3:20
- Judges 6:36-40
- Romans 8:27-28

Title:

FLEECES AND TESTIMONIES

- Fleeces
- Desperate Prayers
- Answered Prayers
- Three Criteria
- Confirmation
- Three Witnesses

Have you ever been pressed to the limit and you know that beyond any doubt the only way you will find peace, the only way you will be certain, is if God Almighty answers your petition in every detail? I'm not talking about a vague feeling or gentle leading; I'm talking exact and detailed answers. I've been there! We all have. In my three decades as a devout Christian I can recall those testimonies as if they were yesterday. They seem so fresh in my mind, I'm sure because I have told the stories over and over and over again. I believe it glorifies God as it testifies to His majesty. But, it also encourages me and others to keep the faith when times are tough and when "there I am again" needing another specific and

detailed answer from the Lord. He has never let me down. And that's the thing; His track record in my life is so long and so predictable that every time I'm up against it, I know just what to do. It's who He is and it's how I've learned to live, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. For those of you who have been there, you know what I mean. For some of you who have yet to test the deep waters of radical faith, jump in; "the water is fine!" Finally, let me leave you with this; I love to tell stories, mostly because I love to tell of my testimonies, which has led me to this simple yet profound conclusion: "If you tell your testimony, God will give you more testimonies to tell!"

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE
"Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give
me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.
Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the
men of the city are coming out to draw water. Now let it be that the
young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I
may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a
drink'— let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant
Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my
master.""... "And when she had finished giving him a drink, she

said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."" Genesis 24:12-14, 19 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16 NKJV) "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV) "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..." Ephesians 3:20 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. The narrative begins with the words "Now Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years." In this portion of the scripture Abraham mourns the passing of his wife Sarah, Isaac's mother. Afterwards, he procures a wife for his son Isaac. It includes an extremely prophetic section in which Abraham insists that he pay for and take title deed of the land on which Sarah is to be

- buried. At the end of this portion, Abraham is laid to rest beside his beloved wife.
- 2. **Sarah's Death and Burial:** Sarah dies at one hundred and twenty-seven years old and Abraham goes into mourning.
- 3. As he is a foreigner and a visitor in the land, he asks to purchase property for a burial place.
- 4. As he is well regarded among the leaders of the land, this is their response: "Hear us, my lord: You are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, that you may bury your dead." Genesis 23:6 NKJV
- 5. Abraham asks for a specific plot of land, the cave of Machpelah, but insists he buy it for full price.
- 6. Ephron, who owns the land, wants to give it freely, and even have witnesses verify he has done so.
- 7. But, Abraham, again, insists that he pay for it. Nevertheless, Ephron, counters his offer and again makes light of it, this time naming what it is worth (four hundred shekels of silver), but only to emphasize how insignificant it is to him.
- 8. Abraham hears what it is worth and says, "Sold, for four hundred shekels!"
- 9. Then the land was legally deeded to Abraham as a possession. "So the field and the cave that is in it were deeded to Abraham

- by the sons of Heth as property for a burial place." Genesis 23:20 NKJV
- 10. Abraham then buries Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah that he purchased.
- 11. **Special Reference:** You can see detailed notes about taking legal possession of the land in the sermon on this Torah Portion from last year. Title: <u>Hidden Treasure</u>
- 12. **A Bride for Isaac:** At the end of last week's portion we saw the introduction to Rebekah. Abraham is informed that his brother Nahor and his wife Milcah have been blessed with eight sons. One of them is Bethuel, who is the father of **Rebekah!** This is significant because the narrative of Abraham's and Issac's great faith, which affirms Issac as the SEED OF PROMISE, ends by introducing the woman to whom Isaac would one day be married!
- 13. Abraham is very old and he asks his most long-standing servant to vow that he would not let Isaac take a bride from among the women of Canaan, but, instead, he would go back to Abraham's native land (as his emissary) to find a wife for Issac from among his family, and to bring her to him. [Confirmation 1: this is one of three criteria to confirm Isaac's wife, two of them from Abraham.]

- 14. His servant is concerned that the woman he finds might not want to come to Canaan, but regardless, Abraham insists that under no circumstances is he to take Isaac back to that land with him, as it is Canaan that is the land of promise.
- 15. Abraham tells his servant that if the woman is not willing to come to Canaan, then he will be released from the oath. This is a "more than you can ask or imagine" stipulation as he is saying that not only must the family be willing to let her go, which is the custom of the day, but the woman herself must be willing to go! [Confirmation 2: her willingness to leave her country to come to Canaan is the second criteria from Abraham to confirm Isaac's wife.]
- 16. The servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham and swore to him concerning this matter. [Note: it is likely that his servant placed his hands near or under Abraham's testicles as the "thigh" literally means "loins or the seat of procreative power." It seems that oaths were sworn in such a way to show the seriousness and severity of a promise, as to strongly affect or be witnessed by future generations.]
- 17. **The Servant Departs on the Mission:** Ten of Abraham's servants depart on the mission to find a wife for Isaac and they set out for Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor (Abraham's brother).

- 18. They arrive at a well outside the city and the chief servant (the actual representative, emissary, ambassador, apostle) of Abraham offers up a prayer asking for Yahweh to show him Isaac's wife by a specific answer to his request. This is the nature of his prayer: "Yahweh, I am setting this fleece before you; when the women come out to the well to draw water, the one from whom I ask for a drink from her pitcher, who says yes, but then also offers to draw water for my camels, this will be the one appointed by You to be Isaac's wife!" [Confirmation 3: this is the third criteria to confirm Isaac's wife, this one set forth as a fleece by Abraham's emissary.]
- 19. **Beautiful Rebekah Draws Water:** Rebekah arrives at the well and Abraham's servant goes to meet her and asks for water. She happily gives him water and then says... "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." (Genesis 24:19 NKJV) Notice how Rebekah not only draws water for the camels, but she does so until they are finished drinking! This again reminds me of how God gives us more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).
- 20. Even with this most dramatic indication that Yahweh had answered his prayer, the servant sits in stunned silence and wonderment. She still must meet Abraham's two requirements. Is she the one? Is she from the family of Abraham and would

- she be willing to go? He waits until the camels finish drinking, gives her valuable gold jewelry, and then asks, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?" Genesis 24:23 NKJV
- 21. Remember, Abraham sent his servant on a mission: "You shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac." (Genesis 24:4 NKJV) If she is related to Abraham, this will satisfy his master's first criteria. Does she meet this requirement? She certainly was an answer to his prayer, but, "Whose daughter is she?"
- 22. Is she from the family of Abraham? "So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor [Abraham's brother!]." (Genesis 24:25 NKJV) Rebekah is Abraham's brother's granddaughter. I think this more than qualifies as family. Confirmation one is sealed!
- 23. **Thankful in Prayer:** Abraham's servant acknowledges the miraculous ANSWER to both Abraham's first requirement, and to his own prayer. "Blessed be Yahweh who has led me to the house of my master's brethren."
- 24. **Next Rebekah Testifies to her Mother and Brother:** Rebekah races home and tells her mother and brother Laban of all that has happened. [*The First Witness:* this is the first testimony/witness.]

- 25. Laban welcomes them in with open arms and wants to hear all about it; "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside?" Genesis 24:31 NKJV
- 26. Food was set before them, but Abraham's servant says, "I will not eat until I have **told** about my errand." (Genesis 24:33 NKJV) [**The Second Witness:** this is the second testimony/ witness.]
- 27. **Details of the Servant's Testimony to Laban and Bethuel, Rebekah's brother and father:** The servant ambassador recounts every detail of the testimony in Genesis 24:34-49.
 - a) The LORD has blessed my master greatly and Sarah my master's wife bore a son when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has.
 - b) My master Abraham made me promise I would not take a wife for his son Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites.
 - c) Instead, I shall go to his father's house and to his family, and take a wife for his son.
 - d) I asked him, "What if the woman will not follow me?"
 - e) He was sure it would all work out as he encouraged; "The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house."

- f) And just to comfort me, he assured me; "You will be released from this oath if you arrive among my family and they will not give her to you." (And remember, also if SHE refuses to go!)
- g) Today, I came to the well and prayed, "If a virgin comes to draw water, and I say to her, 'Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink,' and she says to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,'— let her be the one!"
- h) And that is exactly what happened with Rebekah.
- i) Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" When she told me she was Nahor's granddaughter, I knew this was a confirmation of my master's first criteria.
- j) I was so thankful that "I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son." (Genesis 24:48 NKJV) Obviously he means the daughter of his master's brother's household, as Rebekah is not Nahor's daughter, but his granddaughter, Bethuel's daughter.
- k) **Only one criteria remains:** Will they release her for Issac? And will she be willing to go?
- 28. Laban and Bethuel Respond: "Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. Here is Rebekah

- before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken." (Genesis 24:50-51) The final criteria is almost confirmed, the family will let her go! But will Rebekah agree?
- 29. **Let's Delay:** Laban (brother) and Milcah (mother) want a short delay (10 days) before they release Rebekah.
- 30. **Let's Not Delay:** The servant pushes back... "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master." Genesis 24:56 NKJV
- 31. **Let's Ask Rebekah:** "So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally." Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."" (Genesis 24:57-58 NKJV) Not only is it okay with Nahor, Milcah, Laban, and Bethuel for Rebekah to leave her country, but so too with Rebekah! It is all confirmed. Yet again, this reminds me of how God gives us more than we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).
- 32. **Sent with a Blessing:** And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."" Genesis 24:60 NKJV

- 33. **Off She Goes:** "Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed." Genesis 24:61 NKJV
- 34. **Isaac meets Rebekah and she becomes his wife:** Abraham's servant ambassador tells Issac the entire testimony [*The Third Witness:* This is the third testimony/witness. Can you recognize how important it is to tell your testimony?] There is not much more to do after all these supernatural affirmations than to just get married.
- 35. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 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." Genesis 24:66-67
- 36. **Abraham's wife after the death of Sarah:** Abraham marries Keturah and she gives him many more sons and grandchildren. Abraham blessed this new family with some gifts and sends them away from the country of Isaac, as he leaves all he has as an inheritance to Isaac.
- 37. **Abraham's Death and Burial:** Abraham lived one hundred and seventy-five years. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, the field which Abraham had purchased to bury Sarah.

- 38. **The Families of Ishmael:** The genealogy of Ishmael is recounted and then he dies at one hundred and thirty-seven years old. He died in the presence of all his brethren.
- 39. The next portion begins with the genealogy of Isaac: "This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac."

 Genesis 25:19 NKJV

FLEECES

1. Desperate Prayers

A. Prayer for Confirmation

- (1) A Servant's Prayer
 - (a) "Then he said, "O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink [Step 1], and I will also give your camels a drink' [Step 2]— let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."" Genesis 24:12-14 NKIV
- (2) The Prayer as Recounted to Laban and Bethuel

- (a) ""And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go, behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink," and she says to me, "Drink [Step 1], and I will draw for your camels also [Step 2],"— let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'" Genesis 24:42-44
- (3) Gideon's Famous Fleece Before Yahweh
 - (a) "So Gideon said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said— look, [Step 1] I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said." And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. Then Gideon said to God, "Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: [Step 2] Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew." And God

did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground." Judges 6:36-40 NKJV

B. Answered Prayers

- (1) Light Speed Answers: Before the servant uttered the final words of his prayer...
 - (a) "And it happened, **before he had finished speaking**, that **behold**, **Rebekah**, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up." Genesis 24:15-16 NKJV
- (2) The Test
 - (a) "And the servant ran to meet her and said, "Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher."" Genesis 24:17 NKJV
- (3) Answer Step 1: "Drink, my lord."
 - (a) "So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink." Genesis 24:18 NKJV
- (4) Answer Step 2: "I will draw water for your camels also..."

- (a) "And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."" Genesis 24:19 NKJV
 - 1. But there is more: until they are finished!
 - 2. "Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, Ephesians 3:20 NKJV
- (b) "Then she **quickly** emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels." Genesis 24:20 NKJV
- (5) The Power of Prayer, Petition and Thanksgiving
 - (a) "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." James 5:16 NKJV
 - (b) "Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything by prayer and supplication**, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV
 - (c) "Then the man **bowed down his head and worshiped** the LORD. And he said, "**Blessed be the LORD** God of my master Abraham, **who has not forsaken** His mercy

- and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."" Genesis 24:26-27 NKJV
- (d) "Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:27-28 NKJV
 - 1. Summary: Fleeces
 - 2. Desperate Prayers —Please give me success (prosper my way).
 - 3. If she gives me a drink AND also offers to water my camels...she's the one! (a two step confirmation)
 - 4. Gideon also had a two step confirmation.
 - 5. Rebekah QUICKLY gave him a drink and QUICKLY ran back to water the camels!
 - 6. Don't blink, God sometimes moves quickly!
 - 7. Both steps are confirmed, both quickly executed by Rebekah.
 - 8. Plus Rebekah waters the camels to completion—The servant was simply observing if she would, but God gave him MORE THAN HE ASK FOR!

- 9. Prayer works, always worship with thanksgiving.
- 10. And when you are aligned with God's purpose it ALWAYS works for the good.

C. My Prayer and Testimony

- (1) Liquid Diet!
 - (a) I pray you do not receive this as a political statement, even though the subject matter is political, as it is deeply personal. A little over a month before the 2020 presidential election, I felt the Lord impress upon me that I should go on a liquid diet (no chewing) starting on the Tuesday four weeks before the election. Election Day would be the 29th day of liquid only. I felt the reason was to keep my mind stayed on the critical spiritual things happening in the earth, as every time I felt the desire to bite into something or crunch something, I would be reminded of such. My wife Andrea, without hesitation, joined me. One of the things heavy on my heart for the better part of 2020 has been Isaiah 59. I won't review it in detail here, but insist you read it and meditate on it. Its sobering words depict a world in which there is no justice, no truth, and no accountability, a world in which blatant sin and blasphemy reign, and innocent blood is shed. You get

the picture? So, we embarked on this liquid journey on October 6, 2020. And when Election Day 2020 arrived, November 3, I was all set on day 29 to eat my favorite pizza. I had it all ready to go as I watched the election, waiting for, what seemed to be an absolute certainty, to be confirmed, an inevitable result giving me permission to eat it, and then...they STOPPED COUNTING! Again, please don't receive this as a political statement, as it is deeply personal. I hoped our President would earn another four years, but now something unprecedented had happened. In the days following, we watched his lead erode in every place they had stopped counting, and then restarted counting, in secret, with no accountability! Since then there have been more witnesses to and exposure of voter fraud than one could ever imagine possible in the USA. As the days lingered and I stayed on liquid only, wondering how long I must continue, I kept asking God for a sign. Saturday night, November 7, I felt this in my heart from the Lord; "Jeff, would you be willing to go all the way until January 21st if necessary?" I wrestled, and then, "Yes Father, anything for truth to be known in our nation." Sunday, the next morning, as I sat to do what I do every Sunday morning,

to begin outlining this week's teaching, I read the prayer of Abraham's servant who was desperate for a sign and guidance from the Father. And in that moment I knew what I was to do and offered up this prayer to Yahweh!

(2) My Prayer

(a) "O Yahweh God of my master Y'shua, please give me success this day, and show me your kindness. Behold, here I stand in intercession, willing to drink only liquids until you declare it is finished. Now let it be that either Donald Trump or Joe Biden becomes the President, and be that whomever it is You choose, he is elected by what are only fair and legal ballots in every state. Please expose all votes that were falsely obtained in any manner whatsoever and eliminate them from the voting totals. Whoever remains the winner afterwards, I will humbly acknowledge as the president whom you have next appointed. Until such time that either president Donald J. Trump is proven the next duly elected president, or he concedes such because an honest counting of true votes has proven that Joe Biden is our next president, I will remain on liquids and no solid food. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to me."

(3) My Testimony

- (a) "I bow my head and worship Yahweh. Blessed be Yahweh, God of my master Y'shua, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward me. He has led me to the peace of His answer!"
- (b) "Food is on my table, but I declare, I will not eat until I have told my testimony."
- (c) My burden felt precisely like this! "The burden which the prophet Habakkuk saw. O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" And You will not save." Habakkuk 1:1-2

THREE CRITERIA

2. Confirmation

A. Confirmation #1

- (1) Abraham to his Chief Ambassador: Promise me in a solemn vow, my chief servant that you will not let Isaac take a bride from among the women of Canaan, but, instead, you go back to my native land to find a wife for Issac from among his family.
 - (a) "So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the

LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will **not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites**, among whom I dwell; but **you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac**."" Genesis 24:2-4 NKJV

- (2) **Inquiry?** Even with this most dramatic indication that Yahweh had answered his prayer, the servant sits in stunned silence and wonderment. Is she the one? He waits until the camels finish drinking, gives her very valuable gold jewelry, and asks...
 - (a) "And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not. So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold, and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?"" Genesis 24:21-23 NKJV
- (3) Fulfilled! Is she from the family of Abraham?
 - (a) "So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor." Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."" Genesis 24:24-25 NKJV

- (b) Again More! Not only will I provide water for your camels until they finish drinking, but we have abundant food for them and a place for you to stay.
- (c) "Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly above** all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us..." Ephesians 3:20 NKJV

B. Confirmation #2

- (1) Not only must the family be willing to let her go, which is the custom of the day, but the woman herself must be willing to go! Abraham tells his servant that if the woman is not willing to come to Canaan, then he will be released from the oath. This is a "more than you can ask or imagine" stipulation! By the way, no matter what happens, DO NOT take Isaac back there.
 - (a) "And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?" But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there." Genesis 24:5-6 NKJV
 - (b) "And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there."" Genesis 24:8 NKJV
- (2) Fulfilled!

- (a) Part 1 {Customary, so although it is great, it is not enough} "Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken." Genesis 24:50-51
- (b) **Part 2** {*Rebekah herself must agree!*} Her brother and mother want to delay her departure but the servant insists that they not hinder this move of God (verses 55-56). So they say:
 - 1. "We will call the young woman and ask her personally."" (Genesis 24:57 NKJV) This is where the supernatural kicks it up a notch as it is not the custom to ask what the woman prefers! What is Rebekah's response?
 - 2. **Abraham has offered this as a criteria:** "If the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released." (Genesis 24:8)
 - 3. **And Rebekah's response is this:** "Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, **"I will go**."" Genesis 24:58
 - 4. **The Blessing!** "And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of

thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."" Genesis 24:60 NKJV

C. Confirmation #3

- (1) The fleece set before the Lord by Abraham's servant in his prayer. The woman will willingly give me a drink AND offer to water my camels! (**Note:** this is the third confirmation on the list but was actually the first one fulfilled!)
 - (a) "Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master."" Genesis 24:14 NKJV

(2) Fulfilled!

- (a) "So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink."Genesis 24:18 NKJV
- (b) "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." Genesis 24:19 NKJV
 - 1. Summary: Three Criteria

- 2. Confirmation #1–Isaac's wife must be from Abraham's family.
- 3. Confirmation #2–Not only would her family be willing to let her go, but the woman herself must be willing to go.
- 4. Confirmation #3–The Fleece: Isaac's wife would graciously be willing to give Abraham's servant some water when asked, but she must also offer to water his camels WITHOUT being asked.

THREE WITNESSES

3. "If you tell your testimony, God will give you more testimonies to tell!" *Dr. Jeff Hazim*

A. The First Witness

- (1) Rebekah runs to testify to her mother Milcah and brother Laban
 - (a) "So the young woman ran and **told** her mother's household these things." Genesis 24:28 NKJV
- (2) Rebekah's Testimony Moves Things
 - (a) "Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well. So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his

sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well. And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels.""

Genesis 24:29-31 NKJV

(b) AND STILL MORE! "Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him." Genesis 24:32

B. The Second Witness

- (1) Food was offered, but Abraham's chief servant will not eat until he testifies to Rebekah's brother Laban and her father Bethuel all that Yahweh has done.
 - (a) "Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."" Genesis 24:33 NKJV
- (2) The Servant's Testimony to Laban and Bethuel. He tells them the entire story in Genesis 24:34-49.
 - (a) Abraham's mandate about from where a wife will come for Isaac.
 - (b) The woman's need to agree to it or the vow is off.

- (c) Abraham's promise that the Lord would send angels before him on his quest.
- (d) The fleece he sets before Yahweh and how Rebekah MORE than fulfilled what he asked for.
- (e) How humbled and grateful he is to Yahweh for being so faithful.
- (f) And finally, how only one thing remains to confirm: Are you all in agreement with it? And more specifically, will Rebekah be okay with it!? (Go back to Confirmation #2)
- (3) The Servant's Testimony Moves Things
 - (a) "Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."" Genesis 24:50-51 NKJV
 - (b) **AND OF COURSE, SHORTLY AFTER THAT....** "Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."" Genesis 24:58

C. The Third Witness

- (1) Rebekah Prepares Herself for Isaac
 - (a) "Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet

- us?" The servant said, "It is my master." **So she took a** veil and covered herself." Genesis 24:64-65 NKJV
- (2) Abraham's chief servant testifies to Issac—The third and final witness!
 - (a) "And the servant **told Isaac all the things** that he had done." Genesis 24:66 NKJV
- (3) It is Finished!
 - (a) "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." Genesis 24:67 NKJV
 - 1. Summary: Three Witnesses
 - 2. The First Witness—Rebekah runs to testify to her mother Milcah and brother Laban.
 - a) Rebekah's testimony moves things: when Laban hears, he furthers the relationship with the servant.
 - 3. The Second Witness— The servant would not eat until he had told Laban and Bethuel the testimony of all that had happened.
 - Their response: "The thing comes from the LORD;
 Take Rebekah and let her be Isaac's wife"

- 4. The Third Witness—The Servant's testimony to Isaac about how Yahweh had provided everything that both Abraham and he had asked for!
 - a) The Outcome: "He took Rebekah and she became his wife."

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever been desperate in prayer?

- A. What did that look like?
- B. How did God answer?
- C. How did you hear His voice?

2. Abraham's chief servant was sent on a mission:

- A. What was he to do? Not to do?
- B. What were Abraham's two criteria he was sent to fulfill?
- C. What additional criteria did the servant add?
- D. Describe how each of these criteria were satisfied?

3. God gives us exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think:

A. How did God give more to the servant than he asked for?

4. Name the three testimonies given in the story.

A. Explain this quote: "If you tell your testimony, God will give you more testimonies to tell!"