



## בֵּת-מִי אַתָּה

# “Who’s daughter art thou?” - Genesis 24

**R**ebekah רַבֵּקָה – The humble servant of the LORD. Abraham sought a chosen and prepared daughter of God for his chosen son Isaac (Gen 24:4). If Isaac was to be a father of great nations and a righteous heir, then his spouse was being prepared by the LORD to fill the righteous matriarchal role. Righteousness

was to be an important characteristic of the special wife of Isaac, but Rebekah brought even more to the table. She was humble, kind, chaste, and ever willing to serve (Gen 24:16-20). All of which Abraham’s servant confirms of her, as she fulfilled all the actions the LORD had promised she would (Gen 24:44).

## Rebekah’s Name

Rebekah was known for her beauty, as Sarah was well known previously. Rebekah’s name has a powerful meaning. *Rivqah* רַבֵּקָה literally means: “a rope that binds” because of her beauty. She had an irresistibility that had immediate connections to an eternal binding of Isaac in their first meeting (Gen 24:67) and in the eternal bond. Isaac and Rebecca would have a long and loving marriage, soon to be the parents of 2 great nations.

## Rebekah’s Aramaean Family

- Rebekah, pronounced *Rivqah* in Hebrew, was the beautiful Aramaean daughter of Bethuel, the son of Abraham’s brother Nahor and his sister-in-law Milcah (Gen 24:15). Her brother was Laban, who her son would serve (Gen 24:29). Rebecca’s family were all Aramaeans living in Aram Naharaim in the city of Nahor in Abraham’s ancestral homeland Haran in northern Syria.

## Bethuel the Aramaean

Bethuel was Rebekah’s father and Abraham’s nephew. His father was Abraham’s brother Nahor. His mother was Milcah. He is called “Bethuel the Aramaean” in Genesis 28:5. He lived in the land of Aram and spoke Aramaic.

## Laban the Aramaean

Laban was the son of Bethuel the Aramaean and the brother of Rebekah. He is the one who is the spokesman for the family and deals with the servant of Abraham his Uncle. Laban asks his sister Rebekah if she was willing to go with the man to a land she had never seen, far from her family, and live with her relatives she had never met, marry a man she had never seen. Rebekah gives one of the most definite and faithful statements in the Bible, “I will go” (Gen 24:58). Her father and brother then bless her to be “the Mother of thousands of millions” (Gen 24:60). One day, her son will return to meet his Uncle, Laban.

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## Abraham and Rebekah

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Rebekah was a woman after Abraham's own heart, she was a close relative (Abraham's niece), she was very hospitable to strangers, incredibly faithful being willing to leave her family and homeland to journey to Canaan, and she loved Isaac as soon as she saw him.



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אַתְּ הֵי לְאַלְפֵי רַבָּה

“Be thou the Mother of thousands of millions”

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**N**ot only did Abraham have to find a worthy wife for his son, who could not be an unbelieving Canaanite woman, but he had to have a familiar and strategic ally for his son. If Abraham was to raise a Hebrew Nation through his son, there must needs be a

marriage alliance with the true God and with the powerful Aramaean cousins to the north (Gen 24:60) in order to protect and fulfill God's covenant bestowed upon Abraham and Sarah, and to be passed on to Isaac and Rebekah. Rebekah was the perfectly prepared, powerful Aramaean woman who would bring forth children under the Abrahamic Covenant who would be both Hebrew and Aramaean.



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