

the Purpose *and* Promises of God

God's Purpose and our Dependence

Summary

In Genesis 24 we again see the sovereign hand of God as he continues to fulfill his purpose and promises. Abraham's life is coming to a close and he sees a problem. His son, through whom the covenant line would continue, had no wife. If Abraham was to indeed be a blessing to all nations then something needed to change. God will do what he said he would do and he is kind enough to involve his people in the process. Dependent on God, Abraham sends his servant to find a wife for Isaac. God providentially insures success.

Outline

Introduction

We all want our lives to count for something. Scripture is clear that we can only fulfill our purpose by aligning to God's purpose in continual dependence. Yet, it is so easy to get distracted and begin to form purposes of our own – a desire to build our own kingdoms. Genesis 24 reminds us that God intends to fulfill his purpose in this world and we can participate in that through trust and dependence on him.

Two key themes serve as a foundation for our trust and dependence...

God's Covenant Love (verses 12, 13, and 27)

God's Sovereign Care (verses 21, 40, 42, and 56)

Notes:

Personal Application:

Reflection Questions

1. What problems are present at the beginning of the chapter? Explain why these are concerns.
2. What do you learn and see about God in this chapter? How does that encourage you?
3. Two foundational themes appear in the chapter: God's steadfast love and his sovereign care. How do these impact a life of trust and obedience?
4. Identify each person in this account and how they exercise dependence and trust in God. How might you have reacted similarly? Differently?
5. In what areas of your life is it most difficult to live in dependence on God? Why?
6. God continues to fulfill his purpose in this world in our generation as he glorifies his name by redeeming people through Jesus Christ. How does that purpose impact your everyday life? In what ways can you be tempted to build your own kingdom instead of God's?
7. Prayerful dependence on God requires humility and submission. What is something you are praying for and waiting on God for in your life? How would that prayer help advance his kingdom and see his purpose fulfilled in this world? Share this prayer request with others so they can join you in prayerful dependence.
8. In response to this passage, what change needs to take place in the way you think and/or live?