

THE HOLY BIBLE

TELEPLAY EDITION

Episode 1009

"Rebekah"

by

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Based on the novel by God

TEASER

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - BEERSHEBA - DAY

SUPER: "2087 Anno Mundi"

Eliezer, Abraham's chief servant, walks across the camp and walks into Abraham's tent.

INT. ABRAHAM'S TENT - DAY

Abraham, now 140, sits in his tent, waiting for Eliezer. Eliezer enters and sits in front of Abraham.

ELIEZER

You sent for me, Abraham?

ABRAHAM

Yes, Eliezer. You know that a few months ago, I received word that my brother, Nahor, died.

ELIEZER

Yes, sir.

ABRAHAM

And my nephew, Lot, died last year.

ELIEZER

Man is not living as long as he used to.

ABRAHAM

Well said. As you know, then, I am also old and well advanced in years myself. The Lord has blessed me in every way, but I do not know the day of my own death. Put your hand under my thigh.

Abraham lifts his leg in order for Eliezer to place his hand under Abraham's thigh.

ABRAHAM

I want you to swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living, but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac.

ELIEZER

What are the names of your brother's sons, so I may identify them when I arrive?

ABRAHAM

My brother Nahor had eight sons by his wife Milcah who live in Haran: Uz, Buz, Kemuel, Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel. By his concubine, Reumah, he also had Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

ELIEZER

What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?

ABRAHAM

Make sure you do not take my son back there. The Lord, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, "To your offspring I will give this land" - he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there. If the woman is unwilling to come back with you, then you will be released from this oath of mine. Only do not take my son back there.

ELIEZER

I swear it.

Eliezer withdraws his hand.

ABRAHAM

Go now. As you know, my son, Isaac, is learning the ways of the Lord from Shem, the son of Noah, and his great-grandson, Eber. I'm going to send Unic to bring him home.

ELIEZER

How old is Shem these days?

ABRAHAM

Old. He was with Noah during the flood and even then, he was almost one hundred. That was over four hundred years ago.

ELIEZER

How long do you think he'll live?

ABRAHAM

Noah was nine-hundred fifty when he died, so I imagine Shem will get up to six hundred at this rate.

ELIEZER

Amazing, although I know such ages used to be commonplace in the old days.

Eliezer gets up and stands before Abraham.

ELIEZER

What do you wish me to take in payment to your family in Haran?

ABRAHAM

Ten camels, and a fair supply of your own judgment from my things.

ELIEZER

I can do it. I will return soon.

Eliezer slips out of the tent.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. HARAN - DAY

Eliezer leads the camels into the town of Nahor and he stops them by a watering place. He has the camels kneel by the watering place. The sun is low in the sky.

Eliezer looks around. There are women coming to and from around the watering place with jars on their heads. Few give him any notice. Those that do, mostly ignore him. He prays.

ELIEZER

O Lord, God of my master Abraham,
give me success today, and show
kindness to my master Abraham. See,
I am standing beside this spring,
and the daughters of the townspeople
are coming out to draw water. May
it be that when I say to a girl,
"Please let down your jar that I may
have a drink," and she says, "Drink
and I'll draw water for your camels
too" - let her be the one you have
chosen for your servant Isaac. By
this I will know that you have shown
kindness to my master.

Before he completes his prayer a girl of 15, REBEKAH, walks to the watering place with a jar on her head. Eliezer watches her.

She lowers her jar at the watering place, filling it with water. She raises it back to her head and begins walking back. Eliezer walks over to her.

REBEKAH

Yes, sir?

ELIEZER

Please give me a little water from
your jar.

REBEKAH

Drink, my lord.

Rebekah lowers her jar. Eliezer takes a drink. She looks over to his camels. Eliezer finishes drinking.

REBEKAH

I'll draw water for your camels
too.

She dumps all of her water into a trough where the camels sit. They begin drinking as she refills her jar from the well and dumps more into the trough. She refills her jar a third time, he approaches her.

ELIEZER

I would like to thank you for your
generosity.

He goes to one of the camels and takes out a gold nose ring (about 1/5 ounce) and two gold bracelets (about 4 ounces). He hands these items to her.

REBEKAH

Thank you.

ELIEZER

Thank you. Tell me, whose daughter
are you? And is there room in your
father's house for us to spend the
night?

REBEKAH

I am the daughter of Bethuel, the
son that Milcah bore to Nahor. We
have plenty of straw and fodder, as
well as room to spend the night.

ELIEZER

Thank you.

REBEKAH

Please wait here, while I tell my
father and brothers of this and they
will come to meet you.

Rebekah lifts the jar and goes home as fast as she can. Eliezer falls to his knees.

ELIEZER

Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the journey to the house of my master's relatives.

EXT. BETHUEL'S HOUSE - SUNSET

Rebekah runs across the city to her house and enters.

INT. BETHUEL'S HOUSE - SUNSET

She quickly sets down the jar. In the room listening are LABAN (her brother), BETHUEL (her father), and ARAMAH (her mother). They rise at her swift entrance.

BETHUEL

Rebekah, what's wrong? Where did you get the nose ring and bracelets?

REBEKAH

Father, there is a man at the watering place who requires shelter for himself and his camels. He gave me these for giving him water. I told him we have space for him.

BETHUEL

Laban, go prepare the stable and bring this man to us, so he may stay tonight. We cannot let a traveler remain outside.

LABAN

Yes, father.

Laban leaves.

BETHUEL

Well done, Rebekah. You make us proud.

REBEKAH

Thank you, father.

EXT. HARAN - SUNSET

Eliezer stands waiting by the camels. Laban runs out to him.

LABAN

You are the man who gave Rebekah,
my sister, the ring and bracelets?

ELEIZER

I am.

LABAN

Come, you who are blessed by the
Lord. Why are you standing out here?
I have prepared the house and a
place for the camels.

ELIEZER

Thank you.

Eliezer walks behind Laban as he leads the camels.

LABAN

So where did you come from?

ELIEZER

I was born in Damascus, but I came
this time from Beersheba and the
tent of my master.

LABAN

And why are you in Haran, the
city of Nahor?

ELIEZER

I am here on a mission from my master.
I will tell all when we reach your
home and family.

LABAN

So be it.

EXT. BETHUEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Laban leads Eliezer from the place of the camels to the house
and enters.

INT. BETHUEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Laban leads Eliezer inside. Other members of the family are inside the house.

LABAN

Is this the man, Rebekah?

REBEKAH

Yes, it is.

LABAN

He says he is on a mission for his master in Beersheba.

BETHUEL

Aramah, we have a guest. We must feed him like a king.

Aramah gathers the food she had prepared.

ARAMAH

Rebekah, help me with the food.

Rebekah assists her mother putting the food out on the table.

ELIEZER

Thank you for your hospitality. But I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say.

LABAN

Then tell us.

ELIEZER

I am Abraham's servant.

Everyone reacts favorably to this news, knowing who Abraham is.

BETHUEL

My father's brother is well known to us and the people of this land.

ELIEZER

The Lord has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, manservants and maidservants, and camels and donkeys. My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. My master made me swear an oath, and said, "You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites..."

TIME PASSES

Everyone is entranced by this story. Rebekah appears a little shell-shocked, knowing the Lord has selected her as a wife for Isaac.

ELIEZER

...Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, and I bowed down and worshiped the Lord. I praised the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son.

Eliezer looks around the assembly. Bethuel is unreadable.

ELIEZER

Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn.

Laban and Bethuel looks at each other. Laban shrugs and nods. Bethuel looks at Eliezer.

BETHUEL

This is from the Lord; we can say nothing to you one way or the other.

Bethuel holds his arm out to Rebekah, who walks over to him to stand before him.

BETHUEL

Here is Rebekah; take her and go, and let her become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has directed.

Eliezer smiles and kneels to the ground.

ELIEZER

Praise be to the Lord, the god of my master Abraham. Praise be to the Lord who has granted me success on the mission for my master.

Eliezer rises and looks at Bethuel.

ELIEZER

Bethuel, nephew of my master, Abraham would not ask anything of you without giving of himself in return. Come with me. I have gold and silver and fine clothing for you, your family, and especially Rebekah.

BETHUEL

Your gifts will come later. Now, we eat!

The assembly loudly approves.

INT. REBEKAH'S ROOM - NIGHT

DEBORAH, a servant of the family, prepares Rebekah for bed. Rebekah appears to still be a little shocked at this development.

REBEKAH

What am I to do, Deborah? Today, I am a daughter, but tomorrow, I am to be a wife?

DEBORAH

The choice is not yours to make. It rests with your father.

REBEKAH

Of course it does. Whatever he decides for me, I must obey, but I am the one who must deal with his decision.

DEBORAH

You don't feel ready for this burden?

REBEKAH

I don't know what this burden is.

DEBORAH

Do you believe his mission is from the Lord?

REBEKAH

Do you?

DEBORAH

I have no reason not to, but the decision is not mine to make. If the choice were yours and not your father's, would you choose to go with him or stay here?

Rebekah stares off and ponders this question deep within her.

EXT. BETHUEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Eliezer is preparing the camels to leave with provisions. Satisfied that all is ready, he enters Bethuel's house.

INT. BETHUEL'S HOUSE - DAY

Laban and Aramah are present. Eliezer speaks to Laban.

ELIEZER

All is ready. Send me on my way to my master.

Laban stands. He is apparently not ready to release his sister.

LABAN

Let the girl remain with us for a little while.

ELIEZER

A little while?

ARAMAH

Ten days or so. Then you may go.

ELIEZER

Do not detain me now that the Lord has granted success to my journey.

LABAN

You come here only yesterday, and she is to leave us today?

ELIEZER

Please, send me on my way so I may go to my master.

ARAMAH

Let's call the girl and ask her about it. If she is to be a wife, then she is certainly able to make decisions for herself. Laban, call Rebekah.

LABAN

Yes, mother.

Laban runs out of the room. Aramah looks at Eliezer. She appears triumphant, while he is just angry.

ELIEZER

This is humiliating.

ARAMAH

Please do not wear out your welcome with ugly words.

ELIEZER

Bethuel decided this last night. Why frustrate his decision?

ARAMAH

Never mind that. Here is Rebekah.

Rebekah enters the room, accompanied by Laban and a servant,
DEBORAH.

REBEKAH

Yes, mother?

ARAMAH

Rebekah, here is the stranger who
made the claims last night regarding
your future and his master. Tell
me now, and do not be afraid of the
truth, child, will you go with this
man?

Rebekah looks at her mother with the greatest of sincerity.
Eliezer stands nervously, his mission hanging in a precarious
balance. Aramah watches her daughter, almost knowing she will
not wish to leave.

REBEKAH

I will go.

Aramah is shocked. Eliezer breathes a sigh of relief.

ARAMAH

You will ... go?

REBEKAH

The Lord has chosen me as a wife for
his master's son. Since the Lord has
called me for this, I must go.

Aramah relaxes and accepts the decision.

ARAMAH

You have spoken wisely, daughter.

Aramah hugs Rebekah.

ARAMAH

I love you.

REBEKAH

I love you too, mother.

Aramah stands back and looks to Deborah.

ARAMAH

Take care of her, Deborah, as you
always have.

DEBORAH

Yes, ma'am.

Rebekah hugs Laban.

LABAN

Take care of yourself.

REBEKAH

I will. Perhaps our children will
get together as well.

LABAN

Maybe.

REBEKAH

Good-bye.

LABAN

Bye.

Rebekah turns to Eliezer. Deborah walks up behind her.

ELIEZER

Are you ready?

REBEKAH

I am.

ELIEZER

Then let's go.

EXT. CANAAN - DAY

Rebekah and Deborah ride their camels led by Eliezer on his.
They cross the vast plains between Haran and Beersheba. It's
about 320 miles.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - BEERSHEBA - DAY

Isaac, now 40, walks over to Abraham, who is sitting under a tree.

ISAAC

Father, has Eliezer returned yet?

ABRAHAM

Not yet, Isaac. I watch the horizon daily, and he has not yet returned. Be patient, however. It is several days' journey from here to Haran and back. Much further than Shem's house in Beer Lahai Roi in the Negev.

ISAAC

Still, it has been a couple of weeks since he left, hasn't it?

ABRAHAM

Relax. He will return. If you have doubts, go into the fields and talk to God. He will ease your mind.

ISAAC

Yes, father.

EXT. FIELDS OF ABRAHAM - DAY

Isaac walks out to the grazing areas of the flocks. He climbs upon a large rock and sits. He closes his eyes and bows his head, like he is thinking quietly.

ISAAC

Oh, God in heaven, creator of all things, is the mission of my father's servant to find me a wife among his kin to be a success.

GOD

Isaac, look up.

Isaac lifts his head to find three camels approaching. He stands and squints his eyes to see. It is Eliezer, Rebekah, and Deborah. Isaac walks out to them.

Rebekah sees Isaac and halts her camel. She gets down and walks a few steps towards him. She turns to Eliezer, who gets down as well.

REBEKAH

Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?

ELIEZER

He is my master's son, Isaac.

Rebekah nods, and covers her face with her veil. Deborah approaches behind her. Isaac reaches them. Rebekah averts her eyes, modestly.

ISAAC

Eliezer, welcome back. Who is this?

ELIEZER

This is Rebekah, the grand-daughter of your father's brother. She is to be your wife.

Isaac looks at Rebekah. He takes her hand.

ISAAC

Welcome, Rebekah. I am honored by your presence.

REBEKAH

And I, you.

ISAAC

Come. My father awaits.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - LATER

Isaac and Rebekah stand before Abraham.

ABRAHAM

Isaac. Rebekah. You will now
become one before the Lord.
As husband and wife, you are
pledged to each other and no
one else for as long as you
both live.

Isaac takes Rebekah's hand and they enter Abraham's tent.

INT. ABRAHAM'S TENT - DAY

Isaac and Rebekah stand hand in hand within the tent, alone. She
removes her veil. Isaac smiles.

ISAAC

You are beautiful.

REBEKAH

Thank you. I hope you will be able
to love me.

ISAAC

I know I will. I will love you for
as long as I will live, for one as
you beautiful as you cannot help
but be loved. For the first time
since the death of my mother, my
heart is coming alive again.

REBEKAH

Then I hope to comfort you in her
death.

ISAAC

All of God's blessings will be upon
us, and he will comfort us for life.

They lower themselves to the bed.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

SUPER: "2106 Anno Mundi"

Isaac, now 59, walks among the flocks of Abraham, overseeing them. ZIMRAN, a son of Abraham and his new wife, KETURAH, walks up to him.

ZIMRAN

Isaac!

ISAAC

What is it, Zimran?

ZIMRAN

Our father, Abraham, wishes to speak with you.

ISAAC

I will go right away. Tend to the sheep.

ZIMRAN

Ok.

Isaac walks through the fields to the camp proper. He meets KETURAH, who is around his age.

ISAAC

Keturah, where is my father, Abraham, your husband.

KETURAH

He is in his tent. Zimran told you?

ISAAC

Only that he wanted to speak to me.

KETURAH

Of course.

Isaac moves on and enters Abraham's tent.

INT. ABRAHAM'S TENT - DAY

Abraham, now 159, sits in his tent, awaiting Isaac.

ISAAC

Father, you summoned me?

ABRAHAM

Yes, Isaac, my beloved son. Please sit down.

Isaac sits with his father.

ABRAHAM

Isaac. I just wanted to speak with you regarding my plans for my wife Keturah and my sons with her. Has their presence been favorable to you?

ISAAC

They follow the ways of the Lord as you have taught them.

ABRAHAM

I was concerned you would fear for the sake of your inheritance.

ISAAC

They are family with us. I miss my mother, but Keturah has been good to me. I know she has brought you comfort as you have grown older.

ABRAHAM

Yes, she is a good woman. Although we have had six sons together, I want to tell you that you alone have a share in my inheritance.

ISAAC

(surprised)

Won't that cause strife between them and me?

ABRAHAM

No. I won't allow it.

ISAAC

What are you going to do?

ABRAHAM

I am going to give them more than enough to start somewhere else, and send them away. I cannot risk them taking over your inheritance when I am gone.

ISAAC

But the customs-

ABRAHAM

I don't care about customs. What is mine is mine to deal with as I see fit, and it will be yours. I assure you that you will have no trouble from them.

ISAAC

Thank you, father.

Isaac remains next to his father as Abraham relaxes himself.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - NIGHT

Isaac enters his tent where his wife, Rebekah (34), is preparing for bed.

ISAAC

Another day has gone.

REBEKAH

All is well?

ISAAC

Yes.

REBEKAH

Good.

Isaac looks at Rebekah for a moment, as if seeing through her.

ISAAC

What's wrong?

REBEKAH

You know what's wrong.

Isaac watches her silently.

REBEKAH

I know that your mother, Sarah,
was barren in her days until your
father prayed for her and she
conceived by him.

ISAAC

Yes.

REBEKAH

So stand up and pray also to God and
he will hear your prayer and
remember us through his mercies.

ISAAC

Abraham has already prayed for me
to God to multiply his seed. Perhaps
this barrenness comes to us through
you.

REBEKAH

But you can also pray, and the Lord
may hear your prayer and grant me
children.

ISAAC

When would you want to do this?

Rebekah looks at him expectantly. Isaac nods.

ISAAC

We shall go to where the Lord provided
for my father in the land of Moriah.
There we will pray.

REBEKAH

Thank you.

EXT. LAND OF MORIAH - DAY

Isaac and Rebekah ride across the land on camels until they reach Moriah. They stop the camels and get off. They climb up the side of the mountain, Isaac leading a sheep behind him.

At the very same place where Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac, Isaac and Rebekah stop.

REBEKAH

This is where the Lord provided
for Abraham?

ISAAC

This is the place: Jehovah Jireh.

Isaac walks over to the altar he and Abraham built.

ISAAC

We built this altar together. It was
then I learned never to make rash
promises before God. I told Ishmael
that I would gladly be a burnt
offering. It was hard to follow
through with it.

REBEKAH

I can imagine.

ISAAC

Let's do this thing.

TIME PASSES...

The offering is burning into the heavens. Isaac and Rebekah kneel on the ground.

ISAAC

O Lord God of heaven and earth, whose goodness and mercies fill the earth, who took my father from his father's house and from his birthplace, and brought him to this land, and told him, "To your seed I will give this land." You who promised and declared to him, "I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand in the sea." Now, O Lord God, may your words be verified that you spoke to my father. For you are the Lord our God, and our eyes are on you to give us children as you had promised. For you are our God, and our eyes are on you only.

Isaac and Rebekah remain on the mountain with their heads bowed and the offering burning to heaven.

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

SUPER: "2107 Anno Mundi"

Rebekah walks through the camp. She is seven months pregnant. She walks to the tent of Abraham and enters.

INT. ABRAHAM'S TENT - DAY

Inside the tent are Abraham (160), Shem (549), and Eber (323, Shem's great-grandson).

SHEM

Rebekah, how are you feeling?

REBEKAH

I'm doing all right. I just wish I knew what was happening. None of the women I've spoken to has ever experienced anything like this.

EBER

And you feel like there is possibly more than one child within you?

REBEKAH

Yes.

SHEM

I've not heard of such a thing before. Our flocks give birth to more than one offspring, but people do not. Or at least, I am unaware of it until now.

REBEKAH

Have you inquired to the Lord about it?

ABRAHAM

We have, but he may wish to speak directly to you.

REBEKAH

Oh Lord God in heaven. What is happening to me?

GOD

Rebekah.

Everyone falls face down in the tent in reverence to the word of God.

REBEKAH

I am here, oh God.

GOD

Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.

Silence reigns for a moment before everyone rises.

EBER

Two nations?

REBEKAH

What does he mean, "The older will serve the younger."

SHEM

God does not serve the customs of our day. The right of the first born means little to him. If he wishes one to inherit instead of the other, that is what will happen.

ABRAHAM

Just as it did with Ishmael and Isaac.

SHEM

The very same.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Keturah works at Rebekah's feet. Rebekah is in the throes of childbirth. Deborah attends her as well.

KETURAH

There are two children, and we must identify the firstborn. Give me a cord from that garment.

Deborah tears a small strip from a robe in the tent. She hands it to Keturah.

DEBORAH

Will this do?

KETURAH

Yes, thank you Deborah. Ok, Rebekah, give me a big push.

Rebekah responds in kind.

KETURAH

All right, I have the head. One more for this one.

Rebekah gives another big push.

KETURAH

And he's out.

Suddenly, Keturah laughs.

DEBORAH

What is it?

KETURAH

I have an arm. The other child was grasping the heel of his brother.

EXT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Abraham and Isaac wait patiently outside the tent.

ISAAC

Are all births this nerve-wracking?

ABRAHAM

Every one.

Rebekah lets out another cry and all is silent. Isaac and Abraham stop and look to the tent. Keturah comes out.

KETURAH

Congratulations, Isaac. You have two sons.

ISAAC

Really?

KETURAH

Yes, the first one is hairy all over like he was born with clothes. The second one is smooth, but we found him grasping the heel of his older brother.

ISAAC

Thank you, Keturah.

Isaac enters the tent.

ABRAHAM

(smiling)

I'm a grandfather.

KETURAH

Well, congratulations to you too, then.

He smiles and hugs her.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

Isaac emerges in the tent and looks at Rebekah, who looks beat. Rebekah is holding both children in her arms. Deborah wets a cloth and cools Rebekah's forehead. Deborah looks at Isaac and smiles.

DEBORAH
Your husband is here.

Rebekah opens her eyes and smiles.

REBEKAH
My husband. We have sons.

ISAAC
So I hear.

DEBORAH
I'll leave you alone for a moment.

Deborah exits the tent.

REBEKAH
What do you wish to name them?

ISAAC
(re: Esau)
This one shall be called Esau, since
he is hairy all over.
(re: Jacob)
This one, I hear, grasped the heel
of his brother, so we will call
him Jacob.

REBEKAH
Those are fine names.

ISAAC
And these are fine children.

REBEKAH
I love you.

ISAAC

I love you.

They kiss lightly and then gaze upon their children.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. ABRAHAM'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

SUPER: "2122 Anno Mundi"

Isaac stands in the fields watching the flocks. Over the ridge comes Esau, now 15, carrying a goat over his shoulder.

ISAAC
Esau, what do you have there?

ESAU
Dinner.

ISAAC
Well done, son! You're spoiling me
with the game you bring in.

ESAU
Thank you, father.

ISAAC
Where is Jacob?

ESAU
Where he usually is: helping mother.

Isaac nods as Esau takes his game into the camp. Rebekah runs past Esau out to Isaac.

REBEKAH
Isaac!

ISAAC
Rebekah? What brings you out here?

REBEKAH
It's your father: Abraham.

ISAAC
What's wrong?

REBEKAH
He has asked to see you. He hasn't
gotten out of bed today. Deborah
thinks he might be dying.

A look of horror crosses Isaac's face. He runs across the camp to Abraham's tent and enters.

INT. ABRAHAM'S TENT - DAY

Abraham lies on his bed very still. Isaac walks across the tent and kneels beside Abraham. He takes Abraham's hand. Abraham opens his eyes and looks at Isaac. He smiles.

ABRAHAM

My son.

ISAAC

Is this the end for you?

ABRAHAM

I think it may be. You know that all I have belongs to you.

ISAAC

Yes.

ABRAHAM

Do you know and understand that the Lord is God in heaven and in earth, and there is no other beside him?

ISAAC

Yes, father.

ABRAHAM

It was he who took me from my father's house, and from my birth place, and gave me all the delights upon the earth; who delivered me from the counsel of the wicked, for in him did I trust. And he brought me to this place, and he delivered me from Ur Casdim; and he said to me, "To your seed I will give all these lands, and they will inherit them when they keep my commandments, my statutes and my judgments that I have commanded you, and which I will command them."

(MORE)

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

Remember my son to do all that I have taught you and keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and do not turn from them to the right or to the left, so it will go well with you and your children after you forever. Always remember the wonderful works of the Lord, and his kindness that he has shown us in delivering us from the hands of our enemies and causing them to fall into our hands. Always keep the commandments and instructions of the Lord our God, and teach them to your children and their children. Teach them the upright way to go, so that it will go well with you and them and your seed forever.

ISAAC

I will do what the Lord has commanded, and I will not depart from it.

ABRAHAM

Go with God, my son.

ISAAC

Go with God, father.

Abraham dies. Isaac cries on Abraham's chest.

EXT. CAVE OF MACHPELAH - DAY

Crowded around the cave are Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Esau, Ishmael, his wives, his twelve children, Shem, Eber, Eber's wife, Ephron the Hittite, the rest of the Hittites, Keturah, Keturah's children, and many other people of Canaan.

Some men exit the cave, like they had just placed Abraham within it. Isaac stands before the assembly.

ISAAC

My father, Abraham, was well known in this land as a man who knew God. Abraham had been good to you all, and upright with God and men. There has been no man who feared God like my father. He feared God from his youth, and served the Lord in all his ways from childhood to manhood. The Lord was with him when he was delivered from the council of Nimrod and his people. When the four kings of Elam came against him, he conquered them. He brought all the children of the earth to the service of God, and he taught them all the ways of the Lord and caused them to know him. He always prepared in his tent meat and drink so that anyone so that those who passed through the land might satisfy themselves in his house. The Lord delivered the whole earth on account of my father, Abraham. We will never forget him as long as the earth remains.

Ishmael steps forward. Isaac walks to him and they hug as brothers. Isaac moves on to Rebekah, and she holds him in comfort.

EXT. OPEN FIELDS - DAY

Esau, 15, walks through the field, hunting. He has his bow ready, and a sword at his side. He looks for game as he hunts.

Watching Esau from behind some bushes is Nimrod, now 215, with two of his men.

NIMROD

Do you see him? The boy often hunts in these fields. He is young and fit. He finds game easily. I envy him.

Nimrod looks back and Esau is gone.

NIMROD

Where did he go? Let's go. If he kills, he can claim his game.

Nimrod and his men walk through the fields, looking for game and Esau.

Esau looks behind him and spots Nimrod and his men emerging. He ducks out of the way into the bushes.

ESAU

Who is that? And why is he following me? I've had enough of him, whoever he is.

Nimrod and his men walk through the fields, near where Esau is hiding.

NIMROD

Where is he?

Suddenly, an arrow lies out of no where. It hits one of Nimrod's men. Before they can react, Esau jumps out of hiding and strikes the other man with his sword. He turns to Nimrod, who has his sword drawn. Nimrod attacks and Esau parries. Esau nimbly defeats Nimrod, who falls to the ground.

Esau stands over him.

ESAU

Who are you?

NIMROD

Nimrod, king of Shinar. Who are you?

ESAU

I am Esau, son of Isaac, the son of Abraham.

NIMROD

Abram!

FLASHBACK - NIMROD'S DREAM SEQUENCE FROM EPISODE 1005

The river turns back into an egg. The egg hatches and a bird flies at Nimrod and lands on his head. The bird pecks out Nimrod's eyes. The voice of Nimrod's wise servant, Anuki, echoes over the sequence.

ANUKI (V.O.)

As for the river which turned to an egg and then the bird that plucked out your eyes: this is nothing else but the seed of Abram who will slay the king in the latter days.

END FLASHBACK

Nimrod dies at Esau's feet. Voices rise over the fields.

MEN (O.S.)

(variously)

Sire! Where is he? I heard the screams from over here!

Esau looks over to them. Esau runs through the fields away from them. They spot him and give chase. Esau runs out of the fields and towards a nearby city.

EXT. CITY - DAY

Esau runs into the city and looks behind him. The men are hot on his trail. Esau, out of breath, keeps running. He skips between the buildings trying to lose the men following him. He hides behind a building and looks around the corner. The men are looking for him.

He looks into the distance where Isaac's Encampment sits. The men are walking in the other direction. With a deep breath, Esau takes off for the camp. The men do not follow. He doesn't stop running until he reaches the camp.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Esau stands next to a tent. He sniffs the air. He holds his stomach for a moment. Food is cooking. He looks behind him, and then runs across the camp into a tent.

INT. KITCHEN TENT - DAY

Jacob has a fire contained and cooks stew over it. He looks up as Esau flies in.

JACOB

What are you doing?

ESAU

I've been out working. Quick, let me have some of that red stew. I'm famished!

JACOB

Famished? What will you give me?

ESAU

I don't care. I'm hungry.

JACOB

Hmm. I'll give you some stew, but first, sell me your birthright?

ESAU

What?

JACOB

Your birthright. Sell it to me.

ESAU

Look, I am about to die. What good is the birthright to me?

JACOB

Swear to me first.

ESAU

I swear in the name of the Lord our God who lives in heaven over all creation, my birthright is yours.

JACOB

Very good. Let me get you some stew.

Jacob serves some stew in a bowl and places it before Esau with bread and a drink. Esau eats hungrily, unmindful of what he has done. Jacob stands back and smiles.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Isaac walks along with his servant, SHELACH, on the edge of his camp looking at the crops.

ISAAC

It doesn't look good, Shelach. No rain for weeks now.

SHELACH

So it is a famine. What so we do?

ISAAC

When famine hit in the days of my father, he went to Egypt. Prepare the camp. We will go there as well to wait out this thing.

SHELACH

Yes, sir.

Shelach runs off. Isaac overlooks the crops and shakes his head.

GOD

Isaac.

Isaac bows before God.

ISAAC

Here am I.

GOD

Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land where I tell you to live. Go to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines. Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your seed all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and kept my requirements, my commands, my decrees, and my laws.

ISAAC

I will do all you command.

Isaac rises. He runs after his servant.

ISAAC

Shelach!

Shelach turns to him.

ISAAC

The plans have changed. We're going to Gerar.

SHELACH

All right.

EXT. GERAR - DAY

Isaac leads a caravan across Gerar to settle there and wait out the famine. As they walk, Isaac leans to Rebekah.

ISAAC

There is no fear of God in this place. My father knew it when he came here too.

REBEKAH

What of it?

ISAAC

If anyone asks you how you know me, say you are my sister.

REBEKAH

What?

ISAAC

If you don't, since you are so beautiful, the men may kill me so they can have you.

REBEKAH

Would they really?

ISAAC

That's what my father said of this land.

REBEKAH

I will do as you say then.

INT. GERAR PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

Abimlelech sits on his throne as several people enter the room.

PERSON 1

My lord and king, a most beautiful woman has entered your land.

PERSON 2

She is worthy of you.

ABIMELECH

(interested)

Who is she?

PERSON 3

She is dwelling in the outer courts with her brother.

PERSON 4

They came from Beersheba.

Abimelech acts as if a memory stirs at the mention of the name.

ABIMELECH

Beersheba?

PERSON 2

Oh yes, my lord. But don't hold that against her.

ABIMELECH

Whose brother is she?

PERSON 3

She came with Isaac, the son of Abraham.

PERSON 4

We asked who she is to him, and he told us she is his brother.

Abimelech is immediately suspicious.

ABIMELECH

Did he?

PERSON 1

Shall we bring her to you, my lord?

Abimelech thinks for a moment.

ABIMELECH

No. No, I believe I will consider this for a time and watch our visitors. No one is to touch her.

The people look at each other confused for a moment, and then bow to Abimelech.

PEOPLE

Yes, my lord.

They leave as Abimelech walks to his window.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - GERAR - DAY

SUPER: "Three Months Later"

Rebekah stands in the tent looking like she just got dressed. Isaac sits watching her. She notices him watching her and smiles.

REBEKAH

What?

ISAAC

You are beautiful, you know that?

REBEKAH

Yes, I do.

ISAAC

And I love you, you know that too?

REBEKAH

One wouldn't think so, the way you avoid me these last three months here.

ISAAC

Is this a problem we need to remedy?

She smiles again.

REBEKAH

Maybe.

Isaac lunges for her, playfully. She screams and avoids him. She runs out of the tent.

EXT. GERAR - DAY

Rebekah and Isaac run around their area in the outer courts of the palace. He chases her and she avoids him.

INT. HOUSE OF THE KING - DAY

Abimelech hears them outside. He looks out his window and sees them together. His eyes open wide in realization.

EXT. GERAR - DAY

Isaac finally catches Rebekah, and they fall to the ground, laughing. He strokes her face gently and kisses her.

ISAAC
I have missed you.

REBEKAH
Me too.

Abimelech walks out to them. Isaac looks up, realizes what has happened, and quickly comes to his feet. Rebekah follows suit. They bow to him. Abimelech is unmoved.

ISAAC
How can I help my king?

ABIMELECH
She is really your wife, isn't she?

ISAAC
She is, my lord.

ABIMELECH
Then why did you tell me, "She is my sister"?

ISAAC
Because I thought I might lose my life on account of her.

ABIMELECH
What is this you have done to us?
One of the men might well have slept with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on all of us.

ISAAC
I am sorry, king Abimelech, but when I saw no fear of God in this place, I felt, like my father before me, that I had no choice.

ABIMELECH

I will declare to everyone in this land, "Anyone who molests this man or his wife shall surely be put to death." You need have no fear. Live in peace.

Abimelech leaves them.

ISAAC

Thank you, my lord!

Rebekah jumps into Isaac's arms. They kiss briefly.

EXT. ISAAC'S FIELDS - GERAR - DAY

Isaac walks through his bountiful crops. He walks over to a well to find it filled with earth. Isaac is very unhappy.

ISAAC

Shelach!

Shelach, who was standing nearby, runs over to him.

SHELACH

Yes, sir.

ISAAC

The Philistines have stopped up the well again. I am really getting tired of this.

SHELACH

You are wealthier than any of their people and yet are in their land. They are jealous.

ISAAC

Clearly.

Shelach looks off to one side.

SHELACH

Is that Abimelech?

ISAAC

Looks like him. We'd better see
what he wants.

Isaac approaches Abimelech.

ABIMELECH

Isaac! Son of my friend Abraham.

ISAAC

Good day, king Abimelech. What
brings you here?

ABIMELECH

I have a request for you and your
people.

ISAAC

What is it?

ABIMELECH

Move away from here; you have
become too powerful for us.

ISAAC

What?

ABIMELECH

I hear the complaints of the people.
They do not like you here.

ISAAC

Where do I go?

ABIMELECH

Behold the whole earth is before you,
dwell wherever it seems good in your
sight.

Isaac nods. Abimelech leaves.

ISAAC

Shelach.

SHELACH

Yes, my lord.

ISAAC
We're moving again.

EXT. CANAAN - DAY

Isaac leads his caravan of flocks, servants, children, Rebekah, and tents across the expanse of Canaan back to Beersheba.

EXT. BEERSHEBA - DAY

Isaac walks into an area he seems to recognize. He stops the caravan.

REBEKAH
Are we here?

ISAAC
Let us camp here tonight. The
Lord will tell us if we are where
we need to be.

SHELACH
I will inform the others.

REBEKAH
Thank you, Shelach.

Shelach runs off.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - NIGHT

Isaac and Rebekah sleep.

GOD
Isaac.

Isaac's eyes snap open. He gets up and walks outside the tent.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

Isaac looks around. Suddenly, a blinding light shines down on him from heaven. Isaac falls to the ground.

GOD

I am the God of your father Abraham.
Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
I will bless you and will increase
the number of your descendants for
the sake of my servant Abraham.

The light goes out. Isaac stands.

ISAAC

This is the place.

MONTAGE

--Isaac gathers rocks and stacks them to build an altar to the Lord.

--Isaac brings a sheep to the altar.

--Fire issues from the top of the altar as the offering burns into the heavens.

END MONTAGE

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

SUPER: "Three Months Later"

Rebekah walks through the camp with water. She stops at Isaac.

REBEKAH

Abimelech is coming.

Isaac looks off into the distance.

ISAAC

As God lives, what could he
possibly want of me now?

Isaac walks across his field to Abimelech.

Abimelech has a procession who carries him on their shoulders and is led by Phicol, his prince of armies, and AHUZZAH, his personal advisor. Abimelech spots Isaac approaching.

ABIMELECH

Stop here.

His procession stops. Isaac reaches him.

ISAAC

Why have you come to me, since you were hostile to me and sent me away?

Abimelech gets out of his carriage and stands before Isaac.

ABIMELECH

We saw clearly that the Lord was with you; so we said, "There ought to be a sworn agreement between us" - between us and you. Let us make a treaty with you that you will do us no harm, just as we did not molest you but always treated you well and sent you away in peace. And now you are blessed by the Lord.

ISAAC

I don't wish to have any kind of conflict with you or your people. You will live in your land, and I in mine.

ABIMELECH

Excellent. Ahuzzah, my advisor, has the paper so it may be signed with witnesses.

ISAAC

And after this, you and your men are welcome to stay and feast at my house.

They shake hands.

INT. ISAAC'S TENT - DAY

SUPER: "2125 Anno Mundi"

Isaac sits in his tent. Rebekah enters followed by Esau and Jacob, both 18.

REBEKAH

I brought them as you asked.

ISAAC
Thank you, Rebekah.

Rebekah leaves.

JACOB
Is everything all right, father?

ISAAC
Yes, Jacob, everything is fine.

ESAU
Why have you called us?

ISAAC
Esau. Jacob. The time has come for you to learn the ways of the Lord: his commands and statutes and judgments. I wish to send you to the house of Shem, where he will teach you as he taught me and your grandfather Abraham. These ways are important, for it will determine how God will bless your life.

ESAU
I don't wish to go.

ISAAC
(stunned)
What?

ESAU
I am a skilled hunter. The Lord has given me blessings enough. I don't wish to learn any more. I can sustain myself and live on my own. Let my brother go, but I am not willing.

Isaac looks at Jacob.

ISAAC
Jacob, what do you say?

JACOB

I relish the opportunity to learn the ways of the Lord my God, and will happily go to Shem, if it pleases my father.

ISAAC

It does please me, my son. Very well. Esau, return to your fields. I can't make you go. Jacob, prepare yourself, we leave for Shem tomorrow.

EXT. ISAAC'S ENCAMPMENT - DAY

Jacob hugs Rebekah. Isaac stands by with camels to travel.

REBEKAH

Be good, Jacob.

JACOB

I will, mother. Good-bye.

Jacob gets on the camel. Isaac hugs Rebekah.

ISAAC

I'll be back in a few days.

REBEKAH

Ok. Be careful.

ISAAC

I will.

Isaac goes to his camel and gets on. Together father and son set out for Shem's house.

END OF ACT THREE

Source Material:

From the Bible:

Genesis 24:1-25:11, 25:19-26:33

From Extra-Canonical Works:

The Book of Jashar 24:22, 24:27-25:6, 25:28-28:17