

Oral Presentation Outline

1) Female Initiative in Genesis: Rebekah

A: Women in the Bible play a large role in shaping the destinies of the God's chosen people.

B: Rebekah, in particular, is extremely independent and uses her initiative to play a pivotal role in the God's plan.

- We know nothing about Isaac and see his story through Rebekah's perspective. Rebekah is the main character of Isaac's story.

2) Evidence:

A: Gen. 24.15-21 (First Example of Rebekah's Initiative)

◦Rebekah gives water to Abraham's servant and camels. She does this because she has a good heart, not because she was directed to by the God or any other authority.

This act of kindness leads to her being chosen to marry Isaac.

B: Gen. 24.57-58 (Rebekah's Choice)

◦Rebekah is asked by her family when she will go with Abraham's servant to meet and marry Isaac. Rebekah says she will go immediately, opting to not delay at all. Her family asking her opinion is very unusual and allows Rebekah to be the master of her own destiny. By choosing not to wait, Rebekah is there for Isaac in his time of need and sticks to the God's timeline.

C: Gen. 25.23 and 28 (Rebekah's Prophecy and Love of Jacob)

◦Rebekah is told by the God that the younger of her twins will be stronger and served by the elder. Because of the God's words, Rebekah has a special love for Jacob. She knows the God has a divine destiny in mind for Jacob. Previously she acted without guidance from the God but now she directs her considerable will toward achieving His plan through her son.

D: Gen. 27.8-10 (Rebekah's Deception)

◦Rebekah plots to deceive her dying husband into giving his blessing to Jacob instead of Esau. While this may seem cruel and unjust, it is in keeping with the

God's plan. Her faith in the God leads her Without Rebekah's intervention, Jacob would not have received his prophesied blessing and birthright.

E: Gen. 26.7, Gen. 12.11-14 (Ends Justify the Means: The God's Chosen)

◦Just like when the men of the Bible endanger the women to protect themselves, like Abraham with Sarah in Egypt and Isaac with Rebekah in Gerar, Rebekah is acting in accordance to the God's plan. Her seemingly evil actions are justified because they make it so Jacob can become the leader the God intends him to be. Rebekah has the direct word of the God and behaves accordingly. She is "chosen" by the God even though she is never called one of His "chosen" leaders.

3) Conclusion:

A: Rebekah is the ultimate example of Female Initiative in the Bible.

◦Everything Rebekah does in her story promotes the God's plans and helps strengthen His covenant with the Hebrew people.