

Happy Sunday! For those who have accepted the challenge to read through the Bible, this is for you. Today the preaching is not from the Old Testament, but I wanted share some of the significance of that reading. We have witnessed Abraham's character development since chapter 12. The plot has developed right up to the crisis moment in Genesis 22, when we witness that Abraham is commanded to sacrifice his son! Abraham's faith is tested, he passes the test and secures God's favor. Now it is time for a major turning point in the bigger story. Chapter 23 sees the death of Sarah. You should wonder why Moses spends an entire chapter on buying a cemetery plot. Well, it wasn't just a plot of ground. It was a cave and all the land around it. Paying full price means the deal cannot be revoked. This was permanent. When Sarah is nothing but bones, her bones are moved to the back of the cave for the next family member who dies and so on, forever. God promised Abraham that his descendants would, someday, own all the land. A wondering Hebrew buys a permanent burial place for all his generations to come. Abraham owns an installment on what is to come. We have had story introduction, character development, major crisis, resolve and conclusion. Now it is time to pass the torch to Isaac. Here's chapter 24.

God's promise was to Abraham's line. It can't be "diluted" with local people. Hence the challenge to find a suitable bride from family. Abraham's servant has a HUGE task! What if he gets the "wrong" girl? (There's no return policy.) This is his crisis. He calls on Abraham's god. His prayer is a common type for that time. You see, when you want a god to answer your request, it is best to put it in a yes or no, up or down, simple test. Since you know what normally happens, you ask the god to do the opposite, or the unheard of. That will be "the sign" that your god has answered your request. Got it? So, the servant would ask a young girl for water. Simple request. Hospitality code would require the girl to say "Yes." But there are also ten camels. Each camel could potentially hold twenty-five gallons of water. Given the average size of a water jug, she would have to draw water eight to ten times per camel. Ten camels. That would take several hours! Her answer is impressive and extraordinary, unheard of. God answered his request. Crisis resolved. Abraham can die. Next generation to carry on.

Look for the story line, crisis, and resolve as God advances the story. What does it tell us about God through all of the crises in their lives? What can we believe about God in our crises? Blessings to you until next time! Keep reading!