

# Journey INTO THE Bible

## Supplemental Material

Genesis, Part Two: Lesson Two

Genesis 24—25

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## Meeting at the Well

**T**he well serves as a natural site for men or their representatives to meet women and eventually marry them. This is the scene in Genesis 24 where the senior servant acting as Isaac's representative meets Rebekah and thus begins betrothal negotiations. In Genesis 29:1-12, the well is also the site where Jacob encounters Rachel and eventually marries her. This is also the case with Moses in Exodus 2:15-22 where he meets Reuel's seven daughters and subsequently receives Zipporah from Reuel as his wife. The meeting at the well in such circumstances follows stereotypical components. A man (or his representative) arrives from a distant land. He then encounters his bride-to-be at the well. The girl hastens home to announce what has happened. Finally the stranger gets an invitation to the parental home and a betrothal is arranged.

A significant symbolic element in the meeting at the well is the bringing together of two vital components in the world of the ancient Near East, that is, water and fertility. The encounters with women described here result in the combination of water and fertility.