

Question: Who is the nursemaid that accompanied Rebekah as mentioned in Genesis 24:59?

Answer: Let's examine this carefully.

Genesis 24:59 states:

"So they sent Rebekah away, their relative, along with her nursemaid, Abraham's servant, and his men."

The word *nursemaid* (Hebrew: "isha mesharet", meaning a female attendant or caregiver) refers to a personal servant or nurse entrusted with the care of someone who may be weak, vulnerable, or in need of assistance. The term is sometimes translated as *nurse*, *attendant*, or *handmaid*.

In the context of Rebekah's journey to marry Isaac, the presence of the nursemaid highlights the cultural and practical realities of long journeys in biblical times. It was common for a young woman to be accompanied by a trusted attendant for care, protection, and companionship.

Theological insight: While the Bible does not explicitly state that Rebekah was ill or weak, the nursemaid's presence can be understood as a providential provision for care and support during a significant life transition (cf. Proverbs 31:15, where a capable wife tends to her household). This points to God's providence in providing care and protection even in uncertain circumstances.

The Bible uses the same term *nursemaid* in other contexts, such as 2 Samuel 4:4:

"Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son who was lame in both feet. When the news of Saul and Jonathan's deaths reached Jezreel, his nurse took him and fled. In her haste, the child fell and became lame. His name was Mephibosheth."

This passage underscores the nursemaid's role as a protector and caretaker in times of crisis, reflecting God's care through human agents.

Spiritual Application: Spiritually, the nursemaid symbolizes Jesus Christ Himself as our ultimate caretaker. In our weakness, distress, and need, only Jesus (Hebrews 4:15-16) can truly sustain, protect, and restore us. He is the Good Shepherd who

watches over His flock (John 10:11), and our Mediator who intercedes for us (1 Timothy 2:5).

However, the Lord's role as our caretaker depends on our willingness to receive Him. When we open our hearts to Christ, submit to His lordship, and obey His commands, He faithfully sustains us through trials and brings healing (Psalm 41:3)

"The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness, you restore him to health."

This aligns with the biblical doctrine of grace: salvation and ongoing care are not earned by our works but given freely by God through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Reflective Questions:

Do you truly have Jesus as your Savior and Protector?

Does your life reflect the transforming power of salvation?

- If you have not yet accepted Christ, seek Him now before it's too late

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