

Rebekah's nurse, Deborah

Gen. 35.8a This verse is assigned on the whole to E, though the only previous reference to Rebekah's nurse comes from J 24.59, where, however, she is not named. (For E's love of names cp 15.2 Ex.1.15; and for a similar record of death and burial cp Num. 20.1b.) But as all three sources J E P locate Isaac in the South, it is not apparent how the aged family servant should be travelling with Jacob through middle Canaan. The passage seems altogether dislocated from its original connexion in the story of Isaac and Rebekah, and its proper place is lost. (Carpenter and Harford, The Hexateuch, Text and Notes, Vol II, p. 55)

Gen. 35.8 The name of Rebekah's 'nurse' is mentioned only here: she is said in 24.59 (J) to have accompanied her mistress to Canaan, - according to P (25.20; 35.28), 140 years previously! P's chronology does not always harmonize with that of JE (p.25): on the other hand, the present notice is perhaps displaced; for the sudden appearance of Rebekah's nurse in Jacob's company at this stage of his history is surprising. (Driver, Genesis, page 309)