



# By Faith

Genesis 12-25

**James 4:14**

**Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—  
what your life will be! For you are like vapor that  
appears for a little while, then vanishes.**

## Main Idea

The record of Sarah's death and burial in Genesis 23 reminds us that life is inescapably brief. Along the way, it's accompanied by bereavement and blessing. But for followers of Jesus, life is best lived as believing exiles.

## Genesis 23:1-2

Now Sarah lived 127 years; these were all the years of her life. <sup>2</sup> Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

## Psalm 90:5-6, 10

...They are like grass that grows in the morning—  
<sup>6</sup> in the morning it sprouts and grows;  
by evening it withers and dries up.

<sup>10</sup> Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong,  
eighty years.

Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow;  
indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away.

## Genesis 3:19

You will eat bread by the sweat of your brow until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust.

**Psalm 116:15**

**The death of his faithful ones is valuable in the LORD's sight.**

**Valuable = precious or costly**

**Ezekiel 18:32**

**For I take no pleasure in anyone's death." This is the declaration of the Lord God.**

Abraham here reminds us that God's covenant people are not sticks and stones, impervious to grief and sadness. We are not some sort of elite humanity that doesn't face these ravages... Just because you're a Christian does not mean you don't mourn and weep over your loss, over the spouse who's no longer at your side or the child who no longer sits on your knee. And sometimes it may come in waves.

*Dale Ralph Davis*

# 1 Corinthians 15:25-26

For he must reign until he puts all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be abolished is death.

**Ecclesiastes 3:4**

**a time to weep and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn and a time to dance;**

**Romans 12:15**

**Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those  
who weep.**

## Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

There is nothing better for a person than to eat, drink, and enjoy his work. I have seen that even this is from God's hand, <sup>25</sup> because who can eat and who can enjoy life apart from him?

## Genesis 23:3-16

When Abraham got up from beside his dead wife, he spoke to the Hethites: <sup>4</sup> “I am an alien residing among you. Give me burial property among you so that I can bury my dead.”,

<sup>5</sup> The Hethites replied to Abraham, <sup>6</sup> “Listen to us, my lord. You are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in our finest burial place. None of us will withhold from you his burial place for burying your dead.” ...

**7 Then Abraham rose and bowed down to the Hethites, the people of the land. 8 He said to them, “If you are willing for me to bury my dead, listen to me and ask Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf 9 to give me the cave of Machpelah that belongs to him; it is at the end of his field. Let him give it to me in your presence, for the full price, as burial property.” ...**

<sup>10</sup> Ephron was sitting among the Hethites. So in the hearing of all the Hethites who came to the gate of his city, Ephron the Hethite answered Abraham:

<sup>11</sup> “No, my lord. Listen to me. I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. I give it to you in the sight of my people. Bury your dead.”

<sup>12</sup> Abraham bowed down to the people of the land

<sup>13</sup> and said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “Listen to me, if you please. Let me pay the price of the field. Accept it from me, and let me bury my dead there.” ...

<sup>14</sup> Ephron answered Abraham and said to him, <sup>15</sup> “My lord, listen to me. Land worth four hundred shekels of silver—what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.” <sup>16</sup> Abraham agreed with Ephron, and Abraham weighed out to Ephron the silver that he had agreed to in the hearing of the Hethites: four hundred standard shekels of silver.

## Genesis 3:17-20

So Ephron's field at Machpelah near Mamre—the field with its cave and all the trees anywhere within the boundaries of the field—became <sup>18</sup> Abraham's possession in the sight of all the Hethites who came to the gate of his city. <sup>19</sup> After this, Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave of the field at Machpelah near Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. <sup>20</sup> The field with its cave passed from the Hethites to Abraham as burial property.

## Genesis 12:4-7

Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife, Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan... <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring, I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

## Genesis 50:12-13

So Jacob's sons did for him what he had commanded them. <sup>13</sup> They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave at Machpelah in the field near Mamre, which Abraham had purchased as burial property from Ephron the Hethite.

## Genesis 27:8

To you and your future offspring <sup>h</sup> I will give the land where you are residing—all the land of Canaan—as a permanent possession, and I will be their God.

**Hebrews 11:10**

**He was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.**

**Philippians 3:20**

**Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Hebrews 11:14-16

<sup>14</sup> Now those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they were thinking about where they came from, they would have had an opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But they now desire a better place—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.