

Genesis 23 Sarah's Death and Burial

Gen 23:1 Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years (lived to be 127 years old); these were the years (length) of the life of Sarah.

Sarah a women has her age recorded at death, unusual.

Sarah had humility and obeyed Abraham

1Pet 3:3 Do not let your adornment be merely outward--arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel--

1Pet 3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.

1Pet 3:5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands,

1Pet 3:6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (a common title of honor and respect, validating he was head of their house), whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

Gen 23:2 So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, later called Hebron, means town of four) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her (Abraham was probably not there when Sarah died, because it said, Abraham came to mourn for Sarah).

The comment Kirjath Arba indicates that the text was written at a very early date, before Israel entered the Promised Land, because afterwards Hebron was well known. Not only well known in Joshua's and Caleb's day, but it became a "city of refuge." Besides all this, David was king in Hebron for seven years.

Caleb specifically asked for the hill country where the giants lived. Caleb confidence was not in his age or strength alone, but in God's promise and presence.

Jos 14:12 "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

Jos 14:13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

Jos 14:14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he(Caleb) wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

Jos 14:15 And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war.

Caleb actively took possession by defeating the remaining giants and Anakite leaders.

Jos 15:13 Now to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, namely, Kirjath Arba, which is Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak, also see Jud 1:10).

Jos 15:14 Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

Real men mourn, weep and cry

Abraham loved Sarah and was not afraid to mourn and weep. Jesus wept (John 11:35)

Ecc 3:4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;

Comfort the brethren, we have Hope

1Thes 4:13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren (**believers**), concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

1Cor 15:55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

1Cor 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

1Cor 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory (over death & sin) through (faith in) our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Cor 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Gen 23:3 Then Abraham stood up, from before his dead (**wife's body**), and spoke to the sons of Heth (**Hittites, elders**), saying,

The Hittites, along with the Egyptians and the Assyrians, became powerful in the ancient Middle East. They were known for their use of horses and held the secret process of smelting iron, when iron was treasured almost as much as gold. These Hittites were believed to be of Indo-European origin.

Genealogies: Nations Descended from Noah

Gen 10:15 And Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth,

Gen 15:20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

Gen 23:4 "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you (**resident alien, who is looking for to heavenly home, Heb 11:9-10**). Give me property (**sell me ownership**) for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight (**in the proper manner**)."

Gen 17:5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

Gen 17:6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

Gen 17:7 "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

Gen 17:8 "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Abraham chose to continue living in tents because he was looking for a city whose designer and builder is God

Heb 11:9 By faith he(**Abraham**) dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

Heb 11:10 for he(**Abraham**) waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Application today

2Cor 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Phl 1:21 For to me(Paul), to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Phl 1:22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

Phl 1:23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Gen 23:5 And the sons of Heth (**Hittites**) answered Abraham, saying to him,

Gen 23:6 "Hear us, my lord: You are a mighty prince (**Literally prince of God**) among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will (**hinder or**) withhold from you, his burial place, (**so**) that you may bury your dead (**wife**)."

Hittites knew Abraham's had a special relationship with God and God was blessing him.

Abraham did not want to bury his dead in their tombs, but wanted a tomb of his own, whereby he was making a declaration that he plans to stay in this land (promise land).

Abraham's servant statement

Gen 24:34 So he (**Eliezer of Damascus Gen 15:2**) said, "I am Abraham's servant.

Gen 24:35 "The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he(**Abraham**) has become great; and He(**God**) has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.

Gen 14:14 Now when Abram heard that his brother(**nephew Lot**) was taken captive, he(**Abram**) armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Gen 13:2 Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Gen 13:3 And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,

Gen 13:4 to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Application:

Pray that we do all for the glory of God

Gen 23:7 Then Abraham stood up and bowed himself (**low, was thankful**) to the people of the land, the sons of Heth (**Hittites**).

Gen 23:8 And he(**Abraham**) spoke with them, saying, "If it is your wish that I bury my dead out of my sight (**in a proper burial site**), hear me, and meet with Ephron the son of Zohar for me (**ask him on my behalf**),

Gen 23:9 "that he may give (**sell**) me the cave of Machpelah which he has (**he owns**), which is at the end of his field. Let him give it to me at the full price, as property for a burial place among you (**permanent site for my family forever**)."

I will pay you what it is worth, there are times God would have us pay full price and not negotiate. It is not always about getting the best deal, it is not about taking advantage of people, have discernment, compassion and love

Gen 23:10 Now Ephron dwelt (**was present sitting**) among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered (**publicly to**) Abraham in the presence of the sons of Heth, (**and**) all who entered at the gate of his city, saying,

Many legal transactions needed to be done with witnesses, this provided legal recognition and helped prevent future disputes.

Deu 19:15 "One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits (but); by the mouth (evidence) of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

NT principle:

2Cor 13:1 This will be the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

Mat 18:15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

Mat 18:16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

Gen 23:11 "No, my lord (**Abraham**), hear me: I give (**sell**) you the field and the cave that is in it; I give it to you in the presence of the sons of my people. I give (**sell**) it to you. Bury your dead!"

This was not an offer to give the land to Abraham as a gift, but part of the negotiating process of the time.

Gen 23:12 Then Abraham bowed himself down before the people of the land;

Abraham bowed to show his humility and that he had respect for them. Abraham showed how a follower of God should conduct business with the world in humility, love and truth

Gen 23:13 and he(**Abraham**) spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land (**as a witness**), saying, "If you will give it (**sell it to me, for full price**), please hear me. I will give you money for the field; take it from me (**accept my offer**) and I will bury my dead there."

Gen 23:14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,

Gen 23:15 "My lord(**Abraham**), listen to me; the land (**you desire**) is worth four hundred shekels(**approx. 10 lbs.**) of silver. What is that between you and me (**as friends**)? So bury your dead."

Abraham purchased the land which confirmed that his descendants are to be part of the land of Canaan, the Promised Land (Gen 12:7; 13:14; 15:18).

Gen 23:16 And Abraham listened to Ephron (**agreed to his terms**); and Abraham weighed out the silver for Ephron, which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels (**approx. 10 lbs.**) of silver, currency of the merchants,

Gen 23:17 So the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before (**near**) Mamre (**in Hebron**), the field and the cave which was in it, and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all the surrounding borders, were deeded (**transferred legally**) **Gen 23:18** to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth (**Hittites**), (**and**) before all who went in at the gate of his city.

The city gate was more than an entrance. It functioned as the city's public square and legal center, where:

Elders met,
Judges heard cases,
Contracts were witnessed,
Property was transferred,
Legal decisions were announced.

This explains why Abraham's purchase occurred "in the presence of the sons of Heth" and "all who entered at the gate of his city." The public setting gave the transaction legal standing and made it difficult for anyone to dispute Abraham's ownership later.

Gen 13:18 Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

Future correlation passage

Gen 25:7 This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years.

Gen 25:8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

Gen 25:9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him(**Abraham**) in the cave of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite,

Gen 25:10 the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth. There Abraham was buried, and Sarah his wife.

Gen 25:11 And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.

Isaac walked in his Fathers steps and God blessed him

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Rom 8:4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Gal 6:6 Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Gen 23:19 And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

At this burial site Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Leah were all buried (Gen 49:31; 50:13).

Gen 49:29 Then he(Jacob**) charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,**

Gen 49:30 "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

Gen 49:31 "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

Gen 49:32 "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

Gen 49:33 And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he(Jacob**) drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people (joined his ancestors in death).**

Gen 23:20 So the field and the cave that is in it, were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Heth, as property for a (permanent**) burial place.**