

The Death and Burial of Sarah

Genesis 23:1-20

- I. THE DEATH OF SARAH (Genesis 23:1-2)
 - A. The Time of Her Death – The years of Sarah was 127 years old (Genesis 23:1).
 - B. The Location of Her Death (Genesis 23:2)
 1. In Kirjath-arba, the same is Hebron.
 - a. Hebron is much associated with Abraham and fellowship with God (Genesis 13:18).
 - b. Hebron is where Abraham and Sarah moved after splitting from Lot (Genesis 13:18).
 - c. Hebron is also where Abraham entertained God and the two angels upon their visit at his tent (Genesis 18:1).
 - d. Hebron would become Caleb’s inheritance when he entered the land of promise (Joshua 14:14-15).
 - e. Hebron would also become one of the cities of refuge (Joshua 20:7).
 - f. David would reign as king over Judah at the beginning of his kingdom for seven years and six months from Hebron until he was anointed as king over all Israel (2 Samuel 2:11).
 2. In the land of Canaan.
 - a. Abraham mourned for her.
 - b. Abraham wept for her.
 - i. Note: Abraham and Sarah had been married at least 62 years, possibly longer.
 - ii. They had been married at least since shortly before leaving Ur. (Genesis 12:1-5), Abraham was 75 and Sarah was 65.
 - iii. At her death Sarah was 127 years old (Genesis 23:1; Psalm 90:10).
- II. THE NEED OF A GRAVE (Genesis 23:3-15)
 - A. The Request for the Sons of Heth (Genesis 23:3-9)
 1. Abraham’s posture (Genesis 23:3)
 - a. Abraham stood up from before his dead.
 - b. He spake unto the sons of Heth.

2. Abraham's announcement and request (Genesis 23:4)
 - a. That he was a stranger and sojourner with them (Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16).
Note: By way of application, we too are sojourners and pilgrims (1 Peter 2:11).
 - b. His request, that he would be allowed to purchase a buryingplace for his dead (Genesis 23:19; Genesis 49:30).
 3. The sons of Heth's answer (Genesis 23:5-6)
 4. Abraham's show of gratitude (Genesis 23:7)
 5. Abraham reveals his request for a specific location (Genesis 23:8-9)
 - a. That the sons of Heth would intreat him to Ephron the son of Zohar.
 - b. That Ephron might sale him the cave of Machpelah.
 - c. Which is at the end of his field.
 - d. That Ephron would set his own price for the cave.
 - (1) This was the honest and honourable thing for Abraham to do (Romans 12:17; Romans 13:7-8).
 - (2) He didn't want to take something that cost him nothing (Genesis 23:11-13; 2 Samuel 24:18-25; Proverbs 3:27-28).
- B. The Negotiation with Ephron the Hittite (Genesis 23:10-15)
1. Ephron's offer to give Abraham the field (v. 11).
 2. All this business transaction took place in the sight of the sons of Heth (v. 11).
 3. Abraham refuses to take something that cost him nothing (v. 13).
 4. Ephron tells Abraham the value of the land; four hundred shekels of silver (v. 15).
- III. THE PURCHASE OF THE GRAVE (Genesis 23:16-18)
- A. Abraham's Transaction for the Land (Genesis 23:16)
1. Abraham weighs the four hundred shekels of silver for Ephron.
 - a. Weighing gold and silver for a transaction would have been a common practice in these days.
 - b. Based on weight the value of these precious metals would have been determined.
 - c. This is why the Lord was so adamant that a "just weight" and a "just measure" was to be enforced in Israel (Deuteronomy 25:15; Proverbs 11:1; Proverbs 16:11). Note: Even to this day the belief in a scale or measure being correct is verified by the proper authorities (1 Thessalonians 4:6).
 2. Giving it to the merchant for counting.

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- B. The Content of the Purchase (Genesis 23:17)
 - 1. The field of Ephron.
 - 2. In Machpelah, before Mamre.
 - 3. The field and the cave and all the trees that were in the field.
 - 4. Made sure with the purchase.

 - C. The Purchaser of the Land (Genesis 23:18)
 - 1. By Abraham
 - 2. For a possession in the presence of the children of Heth.
 - 3. At the city gate
 - a. Notice that this was done at the city gate.
 - b. This once again shows that legal proceedings as well as business transactions would be conducted at the city gate in these cultures (Ruth 4:1-12).

IV. THE BURIAL OF SARAH (Genesis 23:19-20)

- A. The Burial of the Dead (Genesis 23:19)
 - 1. The burial of Sarah
 - 2. In the cave at Machpelah, before Mamre
 - 3. The same is Hebron
 - 4. Others buried at Machpelah (Genesis 25:29; 49:1, 29-33)
 - a. Sarah
 - b. Abraham
 - c. Rebekah
 - d. Isaac
 - e. Leah
 - f. Jacob

- B. The Surety Made for the Possession (Genesis 23:20)