

Sojourning with God by Faith

Genesis 23

March 20, 2022 | Ken Lewis, Legacy Ministry Pastor

BIG IDEA: Sojourners walk by faith, knowing that God will fulfill his promise of a homeland.

I. Abraham mourns the death of his wife Sarah (23:1-2)

II. Abraham purchases a burial plot to bury Sarah (23:3-18)

III. Ephron deeds the property over to Abraham (23:19-20)

The life of a sojourner:

1. Sojourners are called by God to follow Him in obedience (Gen. 12:1-4; Heb. 11:8).

i. Called by God (Gen. 12:1)

Genesis 12:1 | "Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.'"

ii. Called to follow Him in obedience (Gen. 12:4, 22:17-18; Heb. 11:8)

Genesis 12:4-5 | "4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan."

Hebrews 11:8 | “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”

Disciples are called by Christ to follow in obedience (Matt. 4:18-22, 9:9; Lk. 9:23, 57-62).

Luke 9:23 | “And he said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.’”

2. Sojourners live holy lives (Gen. 23:6a, 17:1, 18:19; 1 Pet. 1:14-14, 2:11-12).

Genesis 23:6 | “Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.”

Genesis 17:1-2 | “1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.’”

1 Peter 2:11-12 | “11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

3. Sojourners live by faith and die in faith (Gen. 23:1-2; Heb. 11:13; 1 Thess. 4:13-14).

Hebrews 11:13 | “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 | “13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”

4. Sojourners dwell in tents, build altars, and buy burial plots (Gen. 23:4, 12:6-8, 13:3-4, 14-18, 22:9-14, 26:24-25, 35:1-3, 6-7; Heb. 11:9).

i. Dwell in tents (23:4; Heb. 11:9)

Hebrews 11:9 | “By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise.”

ii. Build altars (12:6-8, 13:3-4, 14-18; 22:9-14, 26:24-25, 35:1-3, 6-7; Rom. 12:1)

iii. Buy burial plots (23:3-20; Heb. 11:1)

Hebrews 11:1 | “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

5. Sojourners are sanctified during their journey (Gen. 12-50; Rom. 8:28-30; 1 Thess. 5:23; James 1:2).

Romans 8:28-30 | “28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.”

6. Sojourners move forward and refuse to return (Heb. 11:15).

Hebrews 11:15 | “If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.”

7. Sojourners don't settle; they seek (Heb. 11:10, 16).

Hebrews 11:10, 16 | “10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God...16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 | “But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him’—”

Romans 8:18 | “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”