

GENESIS 22:20-24 & 23

SARAH... ABRAHAM'S QUEEN

LAST WEEK WE STUDIED THE ACCOUNT OF ABRAHAM AS HE WAS CALLED TO HIS GREATEST TEST OF FAITH...

TO SACRIFICE HIS SON ISAAC.

WE SAW ABRAHAM IN GREAT FAITH WITHOUT HESITATION DO EXACTLY WHAT THE LORD CALLED HIM TO DO.

WE ALSO SAW GOD SHOW UP AT THE PERFECT TIME AND STOP ABRAHAM.

GOD HIMSELF HONORING ABRAHAM'S FAITH BY PROVIDING A SACRIFICE IN HIS PLACE.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER WHAT THAT SACRIFICE WAS?

A RAM TANGLED IN THE BRIARS.

WE THEN HEARD THE LORD REITERATE THROUGH AN ANGEL THE SAME PROMISE HE HAD MADE ABRAHAM MANY TIMES OVER.

THAT HE WOULD NOT ONLY BLESS ABRAHAM WITH MORE DESCENDANTS THAN STARS IN THE SKY AND GRAINS OF SAND ON THE SEASHORE BUT THAT THE ENTIRE EARTH WOULD ULTIMATELY BE BLESSED THROUGH THE LINE OF ABRAHAM.

AND HOW EXACTLY IS THAT THE ENTIRE WORLD WOULD ULTIMATELY BE BLESSED THROUGH THE LINE OF ABRAHAM?

BECAUSE JESUS WOULD COME FROM THE LINE OF ABRAHAM!

SO THAT LEAVES US WITH JUST A FEW VERSES THAT END CHAPTER 22.

AND WHILE THEY MAY SEEM INSIGNIFICANT AT FIRST GLANCE BECAUSE IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF NAMES THERE IS ONE NAME THAT WILL BE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

GENESIS 22:20-24

20 NOW IT HAPPENED AFTER THESE THINGS, THAT IT WAS TOLD TO ABRAHAM, SAYING, "BEHOLD, MILCAH [G] ALSO HAS BORNE CHILDREN TO YOUR BROTHER NAHOR: 21 UZ HIS FIRSTBORN AND BUZ HIS BROTHER AND KEMUEL THE FATHER OF ARAM 22 AND CHESED AND HAZO AND PILDASH AND JIDLAPH AND BETHUEL. " 23 AND BETHUEL [H] WAS THE FATHER OF REBEKAH. THESE EIGHT MILCAH BORE TO NAHOR, ABRAHAM'S BROTHER. 24 AND HIS CONCUBINE, WHOSE NAME WAS REUMAH, [I] ALSO BORE TEBAH AND GAHAM AND TAHASH AND MAACAH.

THIS SECTION STARTS OUT BY SAYING IT WAS TOLD TO ABRAHAM...

THIS TELLS US THAT ALTHOUGH THEY WERE SEPARATED BY A GREAT DISTANCE INFORMATION STILL TRAVELED BACK AND FORTH..

BUT THIS IS THE FIRST MENTION OF NAHOR (ABRAHAM'S BROTHER) SINCE ABRAHAM WAS CALLED OUT OF HARAN.

AND OUT OF ALL THOSE NAMES THERE IS ONE NAME THAT IS VERY SPECIAL AND WILL END UP BEING AN INTRICAL PART IN GODS REDEMPTIVE PLAN.

SOMEONE THAT WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN FUTURE EVENTS.

REBEKAH!

SO WE HEAR ALL THOSE NAMES TO GIVE US A GLIMPSE INTO WHAT LIES AHEAD.

AS WE SAW LAST WEEK CHAPTER 22 CONTAINS A BLESSING, WHICH IS WONDERFUL, EXCITING AND FULFILLING.

WE WITNESSED ABRAHAM SUCCESSFULLY PASSING THE GREATEST TEST OF FAITH THAT MAYBE ANYONE HAS EVER ENDURED.

BUT BEAR IN MIND HE WAS ONLY ABLE TO PASS THAT GREAT TEST BECAUSE GOD PROVIDED HIM THE STRENGTH AND FAITH NECESSARY IN THAT MOMENT.

HIS PEACE WAS IN THE LORD AND THE POWER OF HIS GOD.

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT HOMECOMING AFTER LEAVING THE LAND OF MORIAH WAS SO VERY SWEET.

I WONDER WHAT THEY TALKED ABOUT ON THAT THREE-DAY JOURNEY HOME...

AND WHAT JOY MUST'VE BEEN IN ABRAHAM'S HEART SEEING GOD MOVE IN SUCH A POWERFUL WAY.

BUT MUCH LIKE LIFE, MOMENTS OF JOY EVENTUALLY GIVE WAY TO MOMENTS OF GRIEF WHICH IS WHAT WE WILL SEE TONIGHT.

TONIGHT WE WILL READ ABOUT THE DEATH OF SARAH.

ABRAHAM'S BELOVED WIFE OF OVER 100 YEARS.

THE WIFE THAT WAS WITH HIM FROM THE BEGINNING OF HIS JOURNEY.

THE WIFE THAT AS WE READ IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS A FAITHFUL WOMAN AND AN EXAMPLE TO ALL WOMEN OF THE FAITH THAT WERE TO FOLLOW HER.

MY HOPE IS TONIGHT THAT YOU WILL SEE HER AS THAT WIFE, AS THAT MOTHER.

THAT WE WILL SEE THE FACT THAT SHE WAS A REAL PERSON, WITH A VERY IMPORTANT CALLING ON HER LIFE.

I THINK WE TEND TO FORGET THAT THESE ARE REAL PEOPLE THAT WE ARE STUDYING.

THEY AREN'T JUST CHARACTERS IN A STORY.

WE ARE READING THEIR LEGACY AND WE KNOW THAT THEIR STORIES ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY ARE INCLUDED IN THE BIBLE.

WE WATCH TV SHOWS AND MOVIES AND WE GET SO INVESTED IN THE CHARACTERS.

WE ARE TRULY MOVED TO LAUGHTER, FEAR, ANXIETY AND EVEN MOURNING.

BUT WHEN WE STUDY THE BIBLE IT'S AS IF THOSE EMOTIONS ARE LOST ON US BECAUSE WE CAN'T SEE THEM OR VISUALLY EXPERIENCE WHAT'S GOING ON.

MY HOPE IS THAT TONIGHT WILL BE DIFFERENT.

MY HOPE IS THAT THIS STORY WILL JUMP OFF THE PAGES AND COME TO LIFE RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.

GENESIS 23:1

AND ^[A]SARAH LIVED 127 YEARS; THESE WERE THE YEARS OF THE LIFE OF SARAH.

SARAH IS THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE BIBLE WHOSE AGE IS MENTIONED AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH.

THERE IS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT THIS WOMAN.

WE HAVE TO KEEP THAT IN MIND AS WORK OUR WAY THROUGH TONIGHT.

GENESIS 23:2

² SARAH DIED IN KIRIATH-ARBA (THAT IS, HEBRON) IN THE LAND OF CANAAN; AND ABRAHAM ^[B]CAME TO MOURN FOR SARAH AND TO WEEP FOR HER.

I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE DEPTHS OF SUCH A PROFOUND LOSS.

THE HEBREW WORD USED FOR MOURN IS: LIS·Pōd

THIS MEANS TO TEAR THE HAIR AND BEAT THE BREASTS.

THIS IS A WORD FULL OF RAW HUMAN EMOTION THAT WE MISS IF WE DON'T GO TO THE ORIGINAL WORD.

TODAY VERY FEW COUPLES MAKE IT TO 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE, EVEN FEWER MAKE IT BEYOND THAT.

BUT HERE WE HAVE ABRAHAM AND SARAH WHO WERE MARRIED OVER 100 YEARS.

THE MEMORIES THEY SHARED BOTH GOOD AND BAD WERE INNUMERABLE.

THE DEPTHS OF THEIR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER UNFATHOMABLE.

WHEN WE HEAR THAT ABRAHAM WEPT FOR HER AS HE MOURNED HER DEATH THAT DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE JUST HOW VAST THE LOSS HE FELT WAS.

WE READ THAT SHE DIED IN HEBRON WHICH WOULD'VE BEEN IN THE VERY HEART OF THE PROMISED LAND.

AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH ABRAHAM WOULD'VE BEEN 137 AND ISAAC THEIR SON WOULD'VE BEEN 37.

SARAH WAS ABRAHAM'S SOUL-MATE ON HIS EPIC JOURNEY, SHE WAS THERE FOR EVERY FAILURE AND EVERY SUCCESS.

SHE BORE WITNESS TO EVERY PROMISE GOD HAD MADE HIM BEING FULFILLED.

SHE HERSELF ALSO EXPERIENCED SOME FAILURES.

SHE WENT ALONG WITH ABRAHAM'S LIES ABOUT HER BEING HIS SISTER.

IT WAS HER IDEA TO OFFER UP HER MAID SERVANT HAGAR TO ABRAHAM AS A WIFE SO THAT BY HER HE COULD HAVE A CHILD.

SHE LAUGHED WHEN THE LORD SAID THAT SHE WOULD HAVE A CHILD AT THE AGE OF 91.

BUT DESPITE HER FAILURES SHE WAS A FAITHFUL WOMAN.

SHE BELIEVED GOD AND SHE SERVED HER HUSBAND WELL.

HEBREWS 11:11,12

11 BY FAITH EVEN SARAH HERSELF [K] RECEIVED [L] ABILITY TO CONCEIVE, EVEN BEYOND THE PROPER TIME OF LIFE, SINCE SHE REGARDED HIM FAITHFUL WHO HAD PROMISED. 12 THEREFORE THERE WERE BORN EVEN OF ONE MAN, AND HIM AS GOOD AS DEAD [M] AT THAT, AS MANY AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.

WE HEAR SO MUCH ABOUT ABRAHAM'S FAITH BUT THIS VERSE FOCUSES ON SARAH'S FAITH.

IF SHE HAD ANY DOUBTS THEY WERE QUICKLY DISPERSED BECAUSE AS WE READ HERE IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER FAITH THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO BEAR A CHILD AT SUCH AN OLD AGE.

SARAH WAS GREAT WOMAN, A GOOD WIFE, A GOOD MOTHER, SHE LOVED HER HUSBAND AND HER SON BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY OF ALL SHE LOVED THE LORD AND SHE TRUSTED HIM, SHE BELIEVED IN HIM.

AND JUST LIKE ABRAHAM IT WAS BECAUSE SHE BELIEVED THE LORD THAT WAS COUNTED AS RIGHTEOUS.

GENESIS 23:3-6

3 THEN ABRAHAM ROSE FROM BEFORE HIS DEAD AND SPOKE TO THE SONS OF HETH, SAYING, 4 "I AM A SOJOURNER AND A FOREIGN RESIDENT AMONG YOU; GIVE ME A POSSESSION FOR A BURIAL SITE AMONG YOU THAT I MAY BURY MY DEAD OUT OF MY SIGHT." 5 AND THE SONS OF HETH ANSWERED ABRAHAM, SAYING TO HIM, 6 "HEAR US, MY LORD, YOU ARE A [C] MIGHTY PRINCE AMONG US; BURY YOUR DEAD IN THE CHOICEST OF OUR BURIAL SITES; NONE OF US WILL REFUSE YOU HIS BURIAL SITES FOR BURYING YOUR DEAD."

BEAR IN MIND THIS ENTIRE INTERACTION HAPPENS WITH ABRAHAM STANDING OVER THE BODY OF HIS WIFE.

A MAN GREATLY RESPECTED BY THOSE HE IS ADDRESSING; WE CAN TELL THEY HOLD HIM IN HIGH REGARD BECAUSE THEY SAY HE IS A MIGHTY PRINCE AMONG THEM.

ALTHOUGH THE HEBREW SAYS SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN “MIGHTY PRINCE”

LITERALLY TRANSLATED THESE MEN SAID TO ABRAHAM. “YOU ARE GODS CHOSEN ONE AMONG US.”

NOW THAT MEANS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT TO OUR EARS DOES IT NOT?

TO US THERE IS A HUGE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PRINCE AND GODS CHOSEN ONE.

THIS TELLS US THAT THEY SAW THE SAME IN THING ABRAHAM THAT ABIMELECH SAW.

THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM.

IN THIS INTERACTION WE ALSO SEE ABRAHAM EXHIBIT GREAT FAITH.

CAN ANYONE TELL ME HOW HE SHOWS FAITH IN THIS INSTANCE?

REMEMBER THE PROMISE THAT GOD MADE HIM SO LONG AGO?

GENESIS 13:14, 15

14 AND YAHWEH SAID TO ABRAM, AFTER LOT HAD SEPARATED FROM HIM, “NOW LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK FROM THE PLACE WHERE YOU ARE, NORTHWARD AND SOUTHWARD AND EASTWARD AND WESTWARD; 15 FOR ALL THE LAND WHICH YOU SEE, I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU AND TO YOUR SEED FOREVER.

ABRAHAM EXHIBITS FAITH WHEN HE ASKS FOR A BURIAL PLOT IN THIS LAND BECAUSE HE BELIEVED WHAT GOD HAD TOLD HIM OVER 50 YEARS AGO, THAT HIS OFFSPRING WOULD INHERIT THE LAND AND HE WANTED HIS WIFE BURIED WHERE THEIR FUTURE GENERATIONS WOULD LIVE.

THIS WAS A PUBLIC DECLARATION WHETHER OR NOT ANYONE REALIZED IT.

ABRAHAM WAS LOOKING FAR BEYOND THE PRESENT.

JUST AS WE SHOULD BE LOOKING FAR BEYOND THE PRESENT.

REMEMBER WE ARE NOT CITIZENS OF THIS EARTH BUT CITIZENS OF WHERE?

HEAVEN!

PHILIPPIANS 3:20

FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,

THAT IS WHY WE MUST ALWAYS CONDUCT OURSELVES AS SUCH.

THE WORLD IS LOOKING TO US TO SEE IF WE TRULY LIVE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS.

THIS IS WHAT PEOPLE SAW IN ABRAHAM, HE LIVED HIS LIFE FOR THE LORD AND NOT THE WORLD.

AS WE KNOW HE WAS NOT WITHOUT HIS FLAWS BUT IT'S THOSE FLAWS AND MISTAKES WHERE WE GET TO SEE GODS WONDERFUL GRACE AND FORGIVENESS Poured OUT OVER ABRAHAM.

AND JUST LIKE ABRAHAM WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

2ND CORINTHIANS 5:20

20 SO THEN, WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, AS GOD IS PLEADING THROUGH US. WE BEG YOU ON BEHALF OF CHRIST, BE RECONCILED TO GOD.

OUR MISSION AS CHRISTIANS IS TO REPRESENT CHRIST WELL, AS AMBASSADORS.

WE HAVE BEEN COMMISSIONED BY JESUS HIMSELF TO GO AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL AND MAKE DISCIPLES.

WE SHOULD BE TELLING THE LOST THAT GOD DESIRES TO BE RECONCILED TO THEM.

THAT THERE IS COMING A DAY WHEN THE WRATH OF GOD WILL POURED OUT ON THE UNRIGHTEOUS.

WE SHOULD BE TELLING THEM THAT THEY ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD BY THEIR SIN AND THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO BE RECONCILED TO THE FATHER AND THAT IS THROUGH THE SON

2ND CORINTHIANS 5:21

21 HE MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN TO BE SIN ON OUR BEHALF, SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

IN OUR FALLEN HUMAN STATE, WE CANNOT EVER UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE ACHIEVE RIGHTEOUSNESS ON OUR OWN.

PAUL SAYS IN ROMANS 3 THAT NONE ARE RIGHTEOUS NOT EVEN ONE.

AND WE CAN NEVER BECOME RIGHTEOUS, WE ARE INCAPABLE.

BUT WE CAN BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.

BECAUSE JESUS HAS PAID THE DUE PENALTY TO JUSTIFY US BEFORE A HOLY PERFECT GOD.

WE ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

ABRAHAM AND SARAH WERE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH IN GOD THE FATHER AND THE FACT THAT THEY BELIEVED WHAT HE TOLD THEM.

BACK TO GENESIS 23

GENESIS 23:8-16

⁸ AND HE SPOKE WITH THEM, SAYING, "IF IT IS YOUR ^[D]DESIRE FOR ME TO BURY MY DEAD OUT OF MY SIGHT, HEAR ME, AND MEET WITH EPHRON THE SON OF ZOHAR FOR ME, ⁹ THAT HE MAY GIVE ME THE CAVE OF MACHPELAH WHICH BELONGS TO HIM, WHICH IS AT THE END OF HIS FIELD; FOR THE FULL PRICE LET HIM GIVE IT TO ME IN ^[E]YOUR PRESENCE AS A POSSESSION FOR A BURIAL SITE." ¹⁰ NOW EPHRON WAS SITTING AMONG THE SONS OF HETH; AND EPHRON THE HITTITE ANSWERED ABRAHAM IN THE HEARING OF THE SONS OF HETH, EVEN OF ALL WHO WENT IN AT THE GATE OF HIS CITY, SAYING, ¹¹ "NO, MY LORD, HEAR ME; I GIVE YOU THE FIELD, AND I GIVE YOU THE CAVE THAT IS IN IT. IN THE SIGHT OF THE SONS OF MY PEOPLE I GIVE IT TO YOU; BURY YOUR DEAD." ¹² AND ABRAHAM BOWED BEFORE THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND. ¹³ AND HE SPOKE TO EPHRON IN THE HEARING OF THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND, SAYING, "IF YOU WILL ONLY PLEASE HEAR ME; I WILL GIVE THE SILVER FOR THE FIELD, ACCEPT IT FROM ME THAT I MAY BURY MY DEAD THERE." ¹⁴ THEN EPHRON ANSWERED ABRAHAM, SAYING TO HIM, ¹⁵ "MY LORD, HEAR ME; A PIECE OF LAND WORTH ^[F]FOUR HUNDRED SHEKELS OF SILVER, WHAT IS THAT BETWEEN ME AND YOU? SO BURY YOUR DEAD." ¹⁶ SO ABRAHAM HEARD EPHRON; AND ABRAHAM WEIGHED OUT FOR EPHRON THE SILVER WHICH HE HAD NAMED IN THE ^[G]HEARING OF THE SONS OF HETH, FOUR HUNDRED SHEKELS OF SILVER, ^[H]COMMERCIAL STANDARD.

ABRAHAM WAS NOTHING BUT NOBLE IN THIS INTERACTION.

HIS DESIRE WAS TO BUY THE LAND AND BURY HIS WIFE.

EPHRON HOWEVER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ABRAHAM'S GENEROSITY IN THIS MOMENT.

A SHEKEL ISN'T A DENOMINATION OF MONEY BUT RATHER AN ACTUAL WEIGHT.

IT WEIGHED SLIGHTLY LESS THAN A HALF AN OUNCE.

**BUT NONETHELESS THIS WAS AN EXORBITANT AMOUNT FOR THE
PIECE OF LAND ABRAHAM WANTED.**

BUT HE DIDN'T ARGUE, AND WHY NOT?

**BECAUSE THERE WAS NO AMOUNT OF MONEY TOO GREAT FOR A
PLACE FOR HIM TO BURY HIS QUEEN.**

HE ALSO KNEW THAT IT WAS JUST MONEY.

**MONEY THAT GOD HAD BLESSED HIM WITH AND SINCE GOD WAS
THE SOURCE OF THAT BLESSING, HE KNEW GOD WOULD AS HE
ALWAYS HAD, PROVIDE FOR HIM.**

**WE MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT EVERYTHING WE HAVE IS
BECAUSE GOD HAS SEEN FIT TO BLESS US WITH IT.**

**WE OWN NOTHING, WE ARE MERELY STEWARDS, OF THE
RESOURCES AND FINANCES GOD HAS BEEN SO GRACIOUS ENOUGH
TO PROVIDE US WITH.**

GENESIS 23:17, 18

***17 SO EPHRON'S FIELD, WHICH WAS IN MACHPELAH, WHICH
FACED MAMRE, THE FIELD AND THE CAVE WHICH WAS IN IT, AND
ALL THE TREES WHICH WERE IN THE FIELD, THAT WERE ¹⁷ WITHIN
ALL THE CONFINES OF ITS BORDER, ¹⁷ WERE DEEDED OVER ¹⁸ TO
ABRAHAM AS PURCHASED IN THE SIGHT OF THE SONS OF HETH,
BEFORE ALL WHO CAME IN AT THE GATE OF HIS CITY.***

**MAMRE WAS A PLACE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE IN THE LIFE OF
ABRAHAM.**

CAN ANYONE TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

**THAT'S WHERE HE WENT AND BUILT THE ALTAR TO THE LORD WHEN
HE CAME OUT OF EGYPT.**

**THAT IS WHERE JESUS CAME TO HIM AT THE AGE OF 99 AND TOLD
HIM, THAT TIME NEXT YEAR HE WOULD HAVE A SON.**

AND SARAH IN THE TENT HEARING THIS DID WHAT?

SHE LAUGHED!

THIS IS ALSO WHERE ABRAHAM STOOD AND WATCHED AS THE SMOKE ROSE FROM THE CITIES OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

THIS PIECE OF PROPERTY WHILE NOT IN WAS ONLY ABOUT 1-2 MILES AWAY AND FACED MAMRE.

BUT THIS CAVE HE BOUGHT WAS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A TOMB.

ABRAHAM WOULD BE BURIED THERE AS WELL AS HIS SON ISAAC AND HIS GRANDSON JACOB.

JACOB WOULD DIE IN EGYPT AND HIS SONS WOULD TAKE HIM TO HEBRON TO BE LAID TO REST.

JOSEPH WOULD ALSO DIE IN EGYPT AND MAKE THE SONS OF ISRAEL SWEAR THAT THEY WOULD TAKE HIS BONES TO THE PROMISED LAND ALSO.

AND SOME 430 YEARS LATER JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES DID JUST THAT.

THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL PART OF HISTORY THAT SHOWS ABRAHAM'S DEEP LOVE FOR HIS WIFE.

HERE'S MY THOUGHTS ON THIS...

THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR LIFE MUST BE JESUS.

THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE SHOULD BE YOUR SPOUSE.

WHO YOU DATE MATTERS BECAUSE ULTIMATELY YOU WILL MARRY SOMEONE YOU DATE.

DON'T DATE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF IT.

YOU SHOULD ONLY BE DATING CHRISTIANS.

YOU SHOULD ONLY BE SEEKING SOMEONE THAT IS DEEPLY AND PASSIONATELY IN LOVE WITH THE LORD.

A NON-BELIEVER CAN NEVER LOVE YOU THE WAY GOD INTENDED YOU TO BE LOVED.

GOD IS LOVE AND HE IS THE PROVIDER AND SUSTAINER OF LOVE.

SO IF THEY DON'T KNOW CHRIST THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY LOVE YOU THE WAY HE DESIRES YOU TO BE LOVED.

IF YOU ARE MARRIED THEN BE INTENTIONAL WITH YOUR SPOUSE.

MAKE SURE THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVE THEM.

MY HOPE FOR EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM WHEN THEIR SPOUSE AND CHILDREN OR FAMILY HAS TO BURY YOU, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SAY THAT YOU WERE GODLY PERSON.

THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO SAY IN FULL CONFIDENCE THAT YOU ARE RESTING IN THE ARMS OF JESUS.

THAT WHEN THEY THINK OF YOU A SMILE WILL COME ACROSS THEIR FACE BECAUSE OF HOW MUCH YOU LOVED THEM.

GENESIS 23: 19,20

19 AFTER THIS, ABRAHAM BURIED SARAH HIS WIFE IN THE CAVE OF THE FIELD AT MACHPELAH FACING MAMRE (THAT IS, HEBRON) IN THE LAND OF CANAAN.20 SO THE FIELD AND THE CAVE THAT IS IN IT [k] WERE DEEDED OVER TO ABRAHAM FOR A POSSESSION FOR A BURIAL SITE BY THE SONS OF HETH.

JEWISH TRADITION HOLDS THAT ABRAHAM EULOGIZED SARAH IN

PROVERBS 31:10-31

10 [D] AN EXCELLENT WIFE, WHO CAN FIND?

FOR HER WORTH IS FAR ABOVE PEARLS.

**11 THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND TRUSTS IN HER,
AND HE WILL HAVE NO LACK OF GAIN.**

**12 SHE DEALS BOUNTIFULLY WITH HIM FOR GOOD AND NOT EVIL
ALL THE DAYS OF HER LIFE.**

**13 SHE SEARCHES FOR WOOL AND FLAX
AND WORKS WITH HER [E] HANDS [E] IN DELIGHT.**

**14 SHE IS LIKE MERCHANT SHIPS;
SHE BRINGS HER FOOD FROM AFAR.**

**15 AND SHE RISES WHILE IT IS STILL NIGHT,
AND GIVES [G] FOOD TO HER HOUSEHOLD
AND A [H] PORTION TO HER YOUNG WOMEN.**

**16 SHE MAKES PLANS FOR A FIELD AND BUYS IT;
FROM THE FRUIT OF HER [I] HANDS SHE PLANTS A VINEYARD.**

**17 SHE GIRDS [J] HERSELF WITH STRENGTH
AND MAKES HER ARMS STRONG.**

**18 SHE SENSES THAT HER GAIN IS GOOD;
HER LAMP DOES NOT GO OUT AT NIGHT.**

**19 SHE STRETCHES OUT HER HANDS TO THE DISTAFF,
AND HER [K] HANDS HOLD FAST THE SPINDLE.**

**20 SHE [L] EXTENDS HER HAND TO THE POOR,
AND SHE STRETCHES OUT HER HANDS TO THE NEEDY.**

**21 SHE IS NOT AFRAID OF THE SNOW FOR HER HOUSEHOLD,
FOR ALL HER HOUSEHOLD ARE CLOTHED WITH SCARLET.**

**22 SHE MAKES COVERINGS FOR HERSELF;
HER CLOTHING IS FINE LINEN AND PURPLE.**

**23 HER HUSBAND IS KNOWN IN THE GATES,
WHEN HE SITS WITH THE ELDERS OF THE LAND.**

**24 SHE MAKES LINEN GARMENTS AND SELLS THEM,
AND GIVES BELTS TO THE [M] TRADESMEN.**

**25 STRENGTH AND MAJESTY ARE HER CLOTHING,
AND SHE SMILES AT THE [N] FUTURE.**

**26 SHE OPENS HER MOUTH IN WISDOM,
AND THE [O] INSTRUCTION OF LOVINGKINDNESS IS ON HER
TONGUE.**

**27 SHE WATCHES OVER THE WAYS OF HER HOUSEHOLD,
AND DOES NOT EAT THE BREAD OF [P] IDLENESS.**

**28 HER CHILDREN RISE UP AND BLESS HER;
AS FOR HER HUSBAND, HE ALSO PRAISES HER, SAYING:**

**29 "MANY DAUGHTERS HAVE DONE EXCELLENTLY,
BUT YOU HAVE GONE ABOVE THEM ALL."
30 [a] CHARM IS DECEITFUL AND BEAUTY IS VAIN,
BUT A WOMAN WHO [b] FEARS YAHWEH, SHE SHALL BE PRAISED.
31 GIVE TO HER FROM THE FRUIT OF HER HANDS,
AND LET HER WORKS PRAISE HER IN THE GATES.**

A BEAUTIFUL DEPICTION OF A GOD FEARING WOMAN IS IT NOT?

**BUT WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF ABRAHAM ACTUALLY
WROTE THIS ABOUT SARAH IN FACT I DON'T THINK THIS IS WHAT HE
SAID AS HE LAID HER TO REST, MAINLY BECAUSE IT SAYS HER
CHILDREN RISE UP TO BLESS HER.**

**SO IN MY ATTEMPT TO BRING THIS STORY TO LIFE AND HELP US SEE
ABRAHAM AND SARAH AS REAL PEOPLE I DID MY BEST TO WRITE
SOMETHING THAT ABRAHAM MIGHT'VE SAID AS HE LAID HIS WIFE TO
REST.**

SARAH'S EULOGY...

**I STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY A MAN WHOSE HEART HAS BEEN
SHATTERED INTO MORE PIECES THAN YOU COULD EVER POSSIBLY
COUNT.**

**AS MY TEARS WATER THE GROUND THAT ONE DAY I TOO WILL BE
RETURNED TO, I HAVE AN OVERWHELMING SENSE OF PEACE AND
JOY.**

TODAY I WILL LAY TO REST THE LOVE OF MY LIFE.

THE WOMAN THAT HAS BEEN BY MY SIDE THROUGH EVERY FAILURE.

**THE WOMAN THAT HAS SUPPORTED ME AND FOLLOWED ME
WITHOUT HESITATION INTO THE FIERY TRIALS OF LIFE, AND BELIEVE
ME THERE WERE MANY.**

AND WHILE I GRIEVE TODAY, TOMORROW I WILL REJOICE BECAUSE I KNOW THAT SHE IS RESTING IN THE ARMS OF MY FATHER, IN THE ARMS OF HER FATHER.

AND I KNOW THAT I WILL SEE HER AGAIN.

FOR 100 YEARS SHE AND I FIGURED OUT LIFE TOGETHER.

WE HAD SO MANY STORIES OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE THAT I COULD NEVER SHARE THEM ALL.

BUT I WILL DO MY BEST TO TELL YOU ALL WHAT SHE MEANT TO ME.

WHEN WE STARTED THIS JOURNEY SO MANY YEARS AGO NEITHER ONE OF US HAD ANY IDEA THE BLESSINGS WE WOULD SEE TOGETHER.

WE COULD'VE NEVER IMAGINED HOW GOD WOULD CONTINUE TO SHOW UP FOR US OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

WE MADE SO MANY MISTAKES AND I AM SO GRATEFUL FOR HER PATIENCE WITH ME OVER THE YEARS.

NO MATTER WHAT I GOT US INTO SHE NEVER WAVERED.

SHE WAS QUICK TO TELL ME WHEN I WAS WRONG, BUT THE WAY SHE DID IT MADE ME LOVE HER EVEN MORE.

SHE SACRIFICED AS MUCH AS ANY OF US OVER THE YEARS.

SHE GAVE HERSELF TO ME, TO OUR CAMP, TO WEARY TRAVELERS, AND FOR THE LAST 37 YEARS TO OUR SON.

SHE WAS NOT ONLY QUICK TO MAKE FOOD AND BRING WATER FOR VISITORS BUT SHE LOVED TO SERVE.

THERE'S AN OLD SAYING THAT BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL MAN THERE IS A WOMAN TELLING HIM WHAT TO DO.

I CAN VOUCH THAT IS WITHOUT A DOUBT A TRUE STATEMENT, AT LEAST IN OUR CASE.

SHE WAS THE PERFECT WOMAN FOR ME.

CHOSEN BY GOD HIMSELF.

SHE WAS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY SUNSET, MORE BREATHTAKING THAN THE WILDEST THUNDERSTORM.

SHE WAS A WHIRLWIND, AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF NATURE, YET GENTLE AND KIND.

I SWEAR WHEN SHE SMILED THE ENTIRE EARTH STOPPED TURNING.

AND HER LAUGHTER WAS SO CONTAGIOUS, THE MOST BITTER PERSON IN THE WORLD COULDN'T HELP BUT JOIN IN.

I REMEMBER THE WAY SHE WOULD CAST A DISAPPROVING GLANCE IN MY DIRECTION WHEN I WAS OUT OF LINE.

HER SHARP BUT NOT TOO SHARP REBUKE WHEN I FORGOT TO DO SOMETHING SHE HAD ASKED ME TO DO.

I'LL NEVER FORGET HEARING HER LAUGH AS THE LORD STOOD OUTSIDE OUR TENT TELLING ME THAT ONE YEAR FROM THAT DAY SHE AND I WOULD BE PARENTS.

AND THEN HOW RED HER FACE TURNED WHEN HE CALLED HER OUT FOR IT.

SHE WASN'T PERFECT BUT SHE WAS PERFECT FOR ME AND SHE WAS MINE.

THERE WILL NEVER BE ANOTHER WOMAN LIKE HER.

HER UNWAVERING FAITH IN THE LORD WAS AN EXAMPLE TO ALL THAT KNEW HER.

OUT OF ALL THE MEMORIES WE SHARED TOGETHER THE ONE THAT STANDS OUT THE MOST IN MY MIND IS THE DAY SHE GAVE BIRTH OUR PRECIOUS BABY BOY ISAAC.

THE CHILD THAT SHE HAD WAITED FOR HER ENTIRE LIFE AND THOUGHT WAS NEVER GOING TO COME.

AT 90 YEARS OLD SHE HANDLED IT LIKE A CHAMP.

HER BEAUTIFUL SILVER HAIR WET WITH SWEAT, HER FACE RED FROM HOURS OF LABOR IN THAT TENT.

BUT WHEN SHE HELD THAT MOST PERFECT CREATION IN HER ARMS FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER ALL OVER AGAIN.

IT WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHT THIS OLD MAN'S EYES HAD EVER BEHELD.

AND I THANK MY GOD, MY FATHER FOR THAT MOMENT AND EVERY OTHER MOMENT HE ALLOWED ME TO SHARE WITH HER.

TODAY I LAY TO REST THE MOST SPECIAL PERSON IN THE WORLD ME.

TODAY I GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE HER HUSBAND.

NOTHING WILL EVER BE THE SAME WITHOUT HER.

BUT THAT'S OK BECAUSE THIS LIFE IS FLEETING AND IT'S ABOUT THE MOMENTS WE HAD TOGETHER.

NOTHING CAN EVER TAKE AWAY THE TIME WE HAD, THE MEMORIES WE MADE AND THE LOVE WE SHARED.

MY PRECIOUS WIFE I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU AND I WILL MISS YOU UNTIL THE DAY I TAKE MY LAST BREATH.