

Cultivate Genesis Study  
Chapter 23

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 23 this week  
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Verses 1,2 *"Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old. 2 She died at Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her."*

It seems from the wording in verse 2 that Abraham was not lodging in the same location as Sarah when she died.

Adam Clarke's commentary sheds light on this.

"It appears(22:19) that Abraham had settled at Beer-sheba; and here we find that Sarah died at Hebron, which was about twenty-four miles distant from Beersheba. For the convenience of feeding his numerous flocks, Abraham had probably several places of temporary residence, and particularly one at Beer-sheba, and another at Hebron; and it is likely that while he sojourned at Beersheba, Sarah died at Hebron".

Imagine the news from a distant land of the death of a loved one. How Abraham must have grieved the loss of his wife.

Death is an ever-constant monitor that this world is not our home. Death is a fact of life. Ecclesiastes 3:4, *"time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance."* Today was a time to mourn for Abraham and his family. They laughed when Isaac was born and now, they weep when Sarah dies. The death of a loved one is always difficult. The act of mourning over loved ones will never end until God wipes away every tear.

Read Revelation 21:4

"Blessed be his name, that even death cannot part believers from union with Christ."

Matthew Henry

1. What, specifically, has helped/helps you to heal through your time of grieving? What Scripture can you share with someone who has recently lost a loved one, that may comfort them?

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If possible, call or send a letter to someone you know who has lost a loved one and let them know that they are loved and prayed for.

2. What do you believe is the difference between mourning and weeping? Find a verse for each.

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Read John 11:35, 2 Corinthians 1:3,4, Matthew 5:4, Psalm 119:76

3. Why is Jesus able to comfort us in any situation?

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Read verses 3-7

We read earlier that there is a time to mourn but now it was time for Abraham to move forward.

“When Abraham had mourned, he *“stood up from before the dead”* verse 3, indicating that he turned the corner in the grieving process. The idea is that he stood, straightened his posture, looked forward, and moved onward with his life. Yes, there’s a time to mourn, but there’s also a time to move on.” Skip Heitzig

If you are alive, God is not done with you yet so get to work for the kingdom of God!

A great deal of respect was shown towards Abraham as they were willing to give him any burial place he chose.

4. What attributes do you think Abraham walked in that caused the sons of Heth to respect him?

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Do you see those attributes growing in you as you mature in your walk with the Lord?

5. Why do you suppose he chose not to bury her in one of their burial places?

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In vs. 7 we see humility in Abraham as he bows himself low before the people in response to their gracious offer. However, it is a specific cave that Abraham is interested in. He asks the leaders of the land to speak kindly on his behalf to the owner (Ephron) of the cave he desires.

6. Why would Abraham chose to pay for the Cave at Machpelah as opposed to receiving it free of charge? Can you find another example of something offered to Abram that he refused?

Chapter 14

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Abraham conducted all his business dealings in a manner that was pleasing before the Lord. His manner of dealing with people of the world is surely a noble example for believers today to follow.

Read verses 17,18

Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges

“This and the following verses contain, in language of legal minuteness, the description of the purchase. The sentence probably represents the form of a deed of sale, such as was included in Hebrew contracts. Similar minute details are found in Babylonian legal deeds of sale. Notice the particular mention of “the field,” “the cave,” “all the trees,” “all the border,” “made sure,” “in the presence of,” “all that went in at the gate of his city.””

It is interesting how early in human history, that such legal documents were necessary to protect those involved in financial transactions as these.

The sin nature that resides in men (and women) will always tempt to cheat, steal and lie.

7. What verses can you find regarding “dishonesty”?

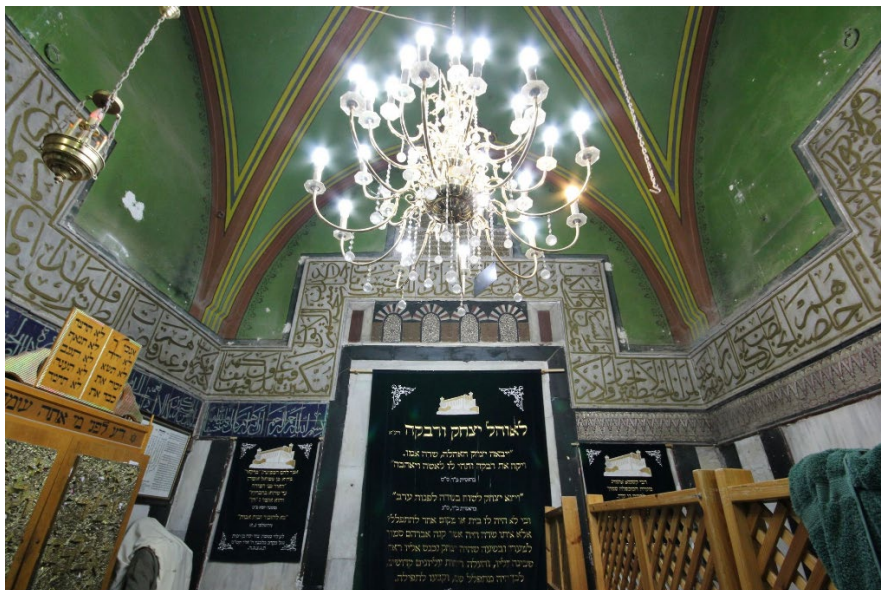
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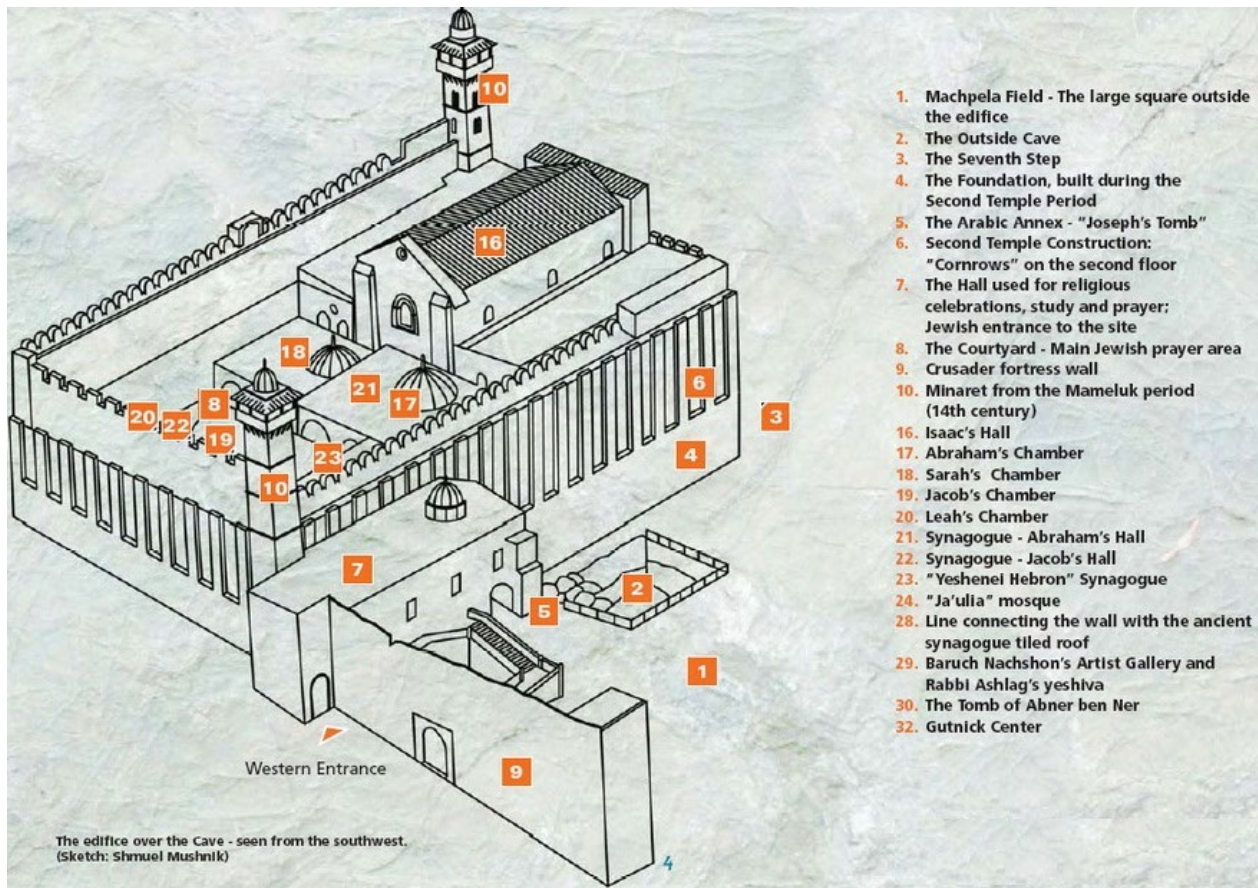
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If you were to go to Hebron today, you can see where Sarah is buried, along with the other patriarch and matriarchs, in the Cave of Machpelah. It's one of the few places we know to be authentic to the biblical account; it has been carefully preserved.

The Cave of Machpelah or "The Cave of the Patriarchs" is the second holiest place for the Jewish people, after Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It is also a revered spot for Arabs as the burial place of Abraham.





1. Machpela Field - The large square outside the edifice
2. The Outside Cave
3. The Seventh Step
4. The Foundation, built during the Second Temple Period
5. The Arabic Annex - "Joseph's Tomb"
6. Second Temple Construction: "Cornrows" on the second floor
7. The Hall used for religious celebrations, study and prayer: Jewish entrance to the site
8. The Courtyard - Main Jewish prayer area
9. Crusader fortress wall
10. Minaret from the Mameluk period (14th century)
16. Isaac's Hall
17. Abraham's Chamber
18. Sarah's Chamber
19. Jacob's Chamber
20. Leah's Chamber
21. Synagogue - Abraham's Hall
22. Synagogue - Jacob's Hall
23. "Yeshenei Hebron" Synagogue
24. "Ja'ulla" mosque
28. Line connecting the wall with the ancient synagogue tiled roof
29. Baruch Nachshon's Artist Gallery and Rabbi Ashlag's yeshiva
30. The Tomb of Abner ben Ner
32. Gutnick Center

8. According to the map above, who else is buried at this sight? Find the Scripture references that confirm each of them were buried here.

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