

Genesis Chapter 23: *Facing Mamre: Mourning, Respect and Reciprocation*

Genesis Chapter 22 Review

- **Abraham:** Picture of the Father, **Isaac:** Picture of the Son, **Rebekah:** A picture of the Bride of the Son
- **We, the Church, are that Bride because Jesus took Isaac's place and ours...Chapter 24**

Genesis Chapter 23

1 Now **Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years**; these were the years of the life of Sarah.

- **Sarah graduates** at 127, Abraham now 137, Isaac is 37

2 Sarah died in **Kiriath-arba** (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan;

- Abraham moves from **Beersheba** back to **Kiriath-arba**
- **Kiriath-arba** means Village of **Arba** or Village of Four; Later **Hebron**:
- **Hebron**:
 1. **25 Miles** SW of Jerusalem
 2. **Inherited by Caleb** [one of Moses "spies"] at 85 years old [Joshua 15]

Joshua 14:11 [Read] "I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. ¹²"Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that **Anakim** [Giants] were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken." Now [Joshua] gave to Caleb...**Kiriath-arba, Arba being the father of Anak** (that is, **Hebron**).

3. **David's first capital city** before Jerusalem: [2 Samuel 2]
4. Site of David's son **Absalom's birth and rebellion**: [2 Samuel]

2b ...and Abraham went in to **mourn** for Sarah and to weep for her.

- Abraham was not there when she died
- **Mourn:** Caphad [saw-fad] to wail, lament, mourn **NAS** (31) - **beat**

John 11:33 [Jesus]... saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, ³⁴and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." **35Jesus wept.**

Luke 19:41 When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and **wept over it**, ⁴²saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the **things which make for peace!** But now they have been hidden from your eyes.

- **Animal Covering:** Death is a consequence of sin [you will surely die]
- We also mourn the blindness of people and consequences of sin; though even death

and mourning are used for God's purpose...what?

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes **all things to work together** for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- People "**sober up**" at funerals; Draw close to God:

Ecclesiastes 7:4 The **mind of the wise is in the house of mourning**, While the mind of fools is in the house of pleasure.

- **Opportunity to listen:**

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and **weep with those who weep**.

- **Opportunity to clarify:**

John 11:25 Jesus said to [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

- **World's Definition of Mourning:** 1. to feel and show sadness because something has been lost or ***no longer exists...but the soul never dies:***

Luke 16:24 "And he cried out and said, ' Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for **I am in agony in this flame.**'

Hebrews 10:31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Luke 12:4 "I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. 5"But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, **after He has killed**, has authority to **cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!**

Matthew 25:46 "[The goats] will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life."

- **Hell: How can a loving God...**

1. Not because of false religion, but having no Savior
2. God will not drag those who do not want to be with Him into Heaven. Period

- **Though Abraham did mourn his temporary loss**, he believed God has the power of life over death: "...*I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship **and return to you.***" [Genesis 22:4]

- **As Christians we mourn...**but not as the world mourns:

1 Thessalonians 4:13 [Read] But we do not want you to be **uninformed**, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that **you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.**

14For if we believe that Jesus died and **rose again**, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the **dead in Christ will rise first**. 17Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18Therefore **comfort one another with these words**. **NOTE:** One prerequisite to our rapture; we will see graves busting open! [v.16]

Revelation 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will **no longer be any mourning**, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

3Then Abraham **rose from before his dead**, and spoke to the **sons of Heth**, saying, 4 "I am a stranger and a sojourner among you; give me a burial site among you that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

- **Abraham rose:**[See David 2 Samuel 12]; there is a time to rise knowing that we are only **Strangers and sojourners; I.e. pilgrims in this world:**
- **Contrast of** Heaven and Earth dwellers

John 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because **they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**.

Leviticus 25:23 'The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for **you are but aliens** and sojourners with Me.

1 Chronicles 29:15 "For we are **sojourners** before You, and tenants, as all our fathers were; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope.

Psalms 39:12 "Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For **I am a stranger with You, A sojourner like all my fathers**.

Psalms 105:12 ...they were only a few men in number, Very few, and strangers in it.

Psalms 119:19 I am a stranger in the earth

1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as **aliens and strangers** to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

Hebrews 11:9 By faith he lived as an **alien in the land** of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; **11:13** All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were **strangers and exiles on the earth**.

- **Sons of Heth:** Hittites; most in Anatolia [Modern Turkey]; some here in Canaan
- **Sell me** a burial site for my wife; Later Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Leah
- **Not yet a property owner;** Abrahams first purchase of the land promised to his descendents is a grave
- Abraham's **humility** and **respect** [even for non-believers]in view ["This is your land...for now"]

1 Peter 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, **live your**

lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

5The sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him, 6 "Hear us, my lord, you are a **mighty prince** among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our graves; none of us will refuse you his grave for burying your dead."

- **Mighty Prince:** Lit. Elohim [Genesis 1:1]; Godly Humility resulting in reciprocated [even enhanced/amplified]respect:

Luke 14:10 "But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, '**Friend, move up higher**'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. 11"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Respect does not mean to validate false beliefs and/or sin

7 So Abraham **rose and bowed** to the people of the land, the sons of Heth. 8And he spoke with them, saying, "**If it is your wish** for me to bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and approach **Ephron** the son of Zohar for me, 9 that he may give me the **cave of Machpelah** which he owns, which is at the end of his field; for the full price let him give it to me in your presence for a burial site."

- **Ephron the son of Zohar:** Head cheese of the Hittites
- Abraham now has his choice of land; as he gave to Lot. Idea of **reciprocation**

Matthew 7:2 "For in **the way you** judge, you will be judged; and by **your standard of measure**, it will be measured to you.

- Asks for just the cave; Isaac and Ishmael will later bury him there [Gen.25:9]
- Let the haggling begin!

10Now 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 presence of the sons of my people I give it to you; bury your dead."

- Ephron and Abraham **go public** at the gate; the place of commerce, judgment, deals
- I give you the field?
 1. Abraham *did not ask for the field*
 2. Ephron wants to sell, not give...both the field and the cave

12And Abraham bowed before the people of the land. 13He spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "If you will only please listen

to me; I will give the price of the field, accept it from me that I may bury my dead there."

- **Abraham** bows **publicly**, "please listen...", "I will give..."; Public Respect for God, exemplified by respecting others; **believers or not:**

1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, **cannot love God** whom he has not seen.

James 3: 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, **who have been made in the likeness of God...**

- It is wise to respect God and all people`

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom

1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to **everyone** [NIV]

Matthew 25:40 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you [fed, clothed, etc.] one of these brothers of Mine, even the **least** of them, you did it to Me.'

Proverbs 14:31 He who oppresses the poor taunts his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.

Proverbs 17:5 He who mocks the poor taunts his Maker; He who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 22:2 The rich and the poor have a common bond, The LORD is the maker of them all.

- Loving/respecting people practice for love/respect for God; abiding in Him [John 15]
- Respect means going beyond our feelings: We need to know **who we are in Christ:**

John 13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had **come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up** from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin **and began to wash his disciples' feet**, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

- Jesus knew where He came from and where He was going...so He got up

14Then Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, 15"My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead."

- No comment needed; all understood as they watched and listened

16Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, **four hundred shekels of silver**, commercial standard.

- Bulk Silver; Coins not until 650 B.C.

17So Ephron's field, which was in Machpelah, which **faced Mamre**, the field

and cave which was in it, and all the trees which were in the field, that were within all the confines of its border, were deeded over to Abraham for a possession **in the presence of the sons of Heth**, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

- **Mamre:** Abraham loved [and now owns] the Oaks of Mamre and had built an altar there years before after God told him to walk the length/ breadth of promised land [Genesis 13] Also Where Three had met him before going to Sodom [Genesis 18:1]

19After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field at Machpelah **facing Mamre** (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20So the field and the cave that is in it, were deeded over to Abraham for a burial site by the sons of Heth.

- **After this:** I.e. After this public real estate transaction; witnesses
- **Facing Mamre**...in Canaan: Looking toward the promise as we...

Titus 2:13 ...looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

- **Memories of Sarah:**
 1. Leaving idolatry & everything she knows to follow Abraham who followed God
 2. The heart-ache of barrenness
 3. Kings admiring her beauty and God's protection of her purity
 4. Keeping up the front for Abe [sister?]
 5. Her character flaws, despising Hagar after compromise
 6. Name changed from Sarai to Sarah [both princess]
 7. Laughing at the Promise of a son and being caught by God
 8. Laughing after having Isaac; then sending Hagar away again
 9. Waiting as Abraham was tested
 10. Her 37 years with Abraham and Isaac enjoying the fulfilled Promise
 11. Example of future Holy women:

1 Peter 3:5... in [chaste and respectful behavior], in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; 6 just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.

SUMMARY:

- **Sarah graduates** and Abraham mourns
- **Abraham buys Mamre** for Sarah in the land his descendants would inherit
- **Abraham respects** his fellow man, deserving or not, as man is created in the image of God