



FOUNDATIONS *of*  
REDEEMPTIVE  
HISTORY

*Part 2*

Genesis 12-24

# BREAKDOWN OF TEXT

~~1. Abram Journeys to Egypt (12)~~

~~2. Abram, Lot, and the War (13-14)~~

~~3. God's Covenant with Abram (15)~~

~~4. Sarai, Hagar, and Doubt (16)~~

~~5. God's Covenant of Circumcision (17)~~

~~6. The Promised Birth of Isaac, and the~~

~~Destruction of Sodom/Gomorrah (18-19)~~

~~7. Abraham, Abimelech, and Isaac's Birth  
(20-21)~~

~~8. The Sacrifice of Isaac (22)~~

**9. Sarah's Death (23)**

~~10. Isaac and Rebekah (24)~~

# REVIEW

**GENESIS 22**

## Some personal thoughts from ch. 22

- We've seen our clearest picture of Jesus Christ.
- We're seeing movement now from Abraham to Isaac.
- Continue studying on your own, coming up with your own questions, and taking time to answer them thoughtfully.

## Personal study questions (Genesis 23)

1. Take mental notes of setting: How old was Sarah when she died? How does Abraham respond? Where does the burial take place?
2. Who is Heth? When is the last time you saw his name in Genesis? Why does Abraham approach his sons? Why are they present in that region?
3. How did the Hittites view Abraham?
4. Why does Abraham identify as a “stranger and sojourner”?
5. How does Ephron initially respond to Abraham’s request? Why does Abraham insist on a different way? What is the importance of legality of land transfer here? Remember the region Abraham is in.
6. What does Sarah’s burial in Canaan communicate about Abraham’s confidence in God’s promise?
7. What does this chapter contribute to the larger Genesis story?

# GENESIS 23

Sarah's Death

- 1. Sarah dies (23:1-2)**
- 2. Abraham and the sons of Heth (23:3-9)**
- 3. Abraham and Ephron's field (23:10-20)**
  - A. The price of the field**
  - B. The location of the field**

1

# 1. Sarah dies (23:1-2)

*Gen. 23:1 Now Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. 2 Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.*

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## AFTER LOT CHOOSES SOD/GOM

*Gen. 13:18 Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.*

## WHERE BIRTH OF ISAAC IS PROMISED

*Gen. 18:1 Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.*

**Hebron** = common name

**Mamre** = nearby grove/landmark

**Kiriath-arba** = city name

# Land of Giants

*Num. 13:22 When they had gone up into the Negev, they came to **Hebron** where **Ahiman**, **Sheshai** and **Talmay**, the descendants of Anak were. (Now **Hebron** was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 33 There also we saw the **Nephilim** (the sons of Anak are part of the **Nephilim**); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.*

*Josh. 14:15 Now the name of **Hebron** was formerly **Kiriath-arba**; for **Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim**. Then the land had rest from war.*

*Josh. 15:13 Now he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the sons of Judah, according to the command of the LORD to Joshua, namely, **Kiriath-arba**, **Arba being the father of Anak** (that is, **Hebron**).*

*Gen. 14:5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim and the Zuzim in Ham and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, 6 and the Horites in their Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness.*

*Judg. 1:20 Then they gave **Hebron** to Caleb, as Moses had promised; and he drove out from there **the three sons of Anak.***

# City of Refuge

*Josh. 20:7 So they set apart Kedesh in Galilee in the hill country of Naphtali and Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim, and **Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron)** in the hill country of Judah.*



# Levitical City

**Hebron** is also one of the  
***48 cities*** given to the  
Levites

# APPLICATION

(Q) How do I respond when grief enters my life? What does Abraham's mourning teach me about healthy sorrow? What might unhealthy sorrow look like?

(Q) How does the certainty of death change the way I live today? In what ways do my decisions today reflect that certainty? In what ways does it reflect against my belief in a passing world?

2

## **2. Abraham and the sons of Heth (23:3-9)**

*Gen. 23:3 Then 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." 5 The 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."*

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*Gen. 10:15 Canaan became the father of Sidon, his firstborn, and **Heth** 16 and the Jebusite and the Amorite and the Girgashite 17 and the Hivite and the Arkite and the Sinite 18 and the Arvadite and the Zemarite and the Hamathite; and afterward the families of the Canaanite were spread abroad.*

*Gen. 9:25 So he said,*

*“Cursed be Canaan;*

***A servant of servants***

***He shall be to his brothers.”***

*26 He also said,*

*“Blessed be the LORD,*

*The God of Shem;*

***And let Canaan be his servant.***

# REQUEST #1

“Please give me  
a burial site.”

*Gen. 23:3 Then 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.”** 5 The 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.”***

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*Gen. 23:7 So Abraham rose and bowed to the people of the land, the sons of Heth. 8 And 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."*

## **REQUEST #2**

**“Please ask Ephron to  
give me the cave at  
Machpelah.”**

***Gen. 23:7 So Abraham rose and bowed to the people of the land, the sons of Heth. 8 And 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."***

3

### **3. Abraham and Ephron's field (23:10-20)**

A. Price of the field

B. Location of the field

*Gen. 23:10 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 presence of the sons of my people I give it to you; bury your dead.”*

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“The bargain which is here made between Ephron and Abraham, is to this very day repeated in that county. In Damascus, when a purchaser makes a lower offer than can be accepted, he is answered: What, is it a matter of money between us? Take it for nothing, friend, as a present from me; don't feel under any kind of constraint!”

-Gordan Wenham

*Gen. 23:12 And Abraham bowed before the people of the land.  
13 He 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."  
14 Then 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."  
16 Abraham 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.*

## REQUEST #3

**“Please name your price  
for the field and I will pay  
it.”**

*Gen. 23:12 And Abraham bowed before the people of the land. 13 He 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." 14 Then 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." 16 Abraham 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.*

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*Gen. 23:17 So 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 18 to Abraham for a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city. 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, were deeded over to Abraham for a burial site by the sons of Heth.*

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*Heb. 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. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. 15 **And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.** 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 a city for them.***

# APPLICATION

(Q) How does Abraham model humility, patience, and integrity with the Hittites? In what areas am I able to exhibit a godly character with unbelievers in my life?

(Q) What would it look like for me to make decisions today that reflect confidence in God's long-term faithfulness?

# GENESIS 24

Isaac and Rebekah

## **NEXT WEEK: Personal study questions (Genesis 24)**

1. Why does Abraham want his servant to go back to his old country? What is so important about going specifically there?
2. How is Abraham's faith and priorities displayed in this chapter?
3. How does the servant seek God's help? What does it tell you about his character?
4. Why do you think Rebekah would agree to just up and go like that? Why did her brother and mother want her to stay 10 days longer?
5. How many times does the servant recount the story of what happened at the well? Why is it repeated in such detail?
6. How does Isaac and Rebekah's marriage move God's promises forward, contributing to the larger covenant story?

## Application Questions (Ch. 23)

1. **Gen. 23:1-2** How do I respond when grief enters my life? What does Abraham's mourning teach me about healthy sorrow? What might unhealthy sorrow look like?
2. **Gen. 23:1-2** How does the certainty of death change the way I live today? In what ways do my decisions today reflect that certainty? In what ways does it reflect against my belief in a passing world?
3. **Gen. 23:10-20** How does Abraham model humility, patience, and integrity with the Hittites? In what areas am I able to exhibit a godly character with unbelievers in my life?
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