

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Death Of A Loved One"
Genesis 23:1-20
Study-48

Eight times "Death" is in our passage Genesis 23:2,3,4,6,8,11,13,19

God said that sin would bring death. **Genesis 2:17**

Genesis 5:5 930 years for death to catch up with Adam, but it did.

Hebrews 9:27 appointed for men to die once (Divine appointment)

Genesis 22-26 Records Details of Isaac's Family:

Thought Of Our Passage: "We Should View The Death Of Our Loved Ones As An Opportunity To Demonstrate Faith And Confidence In God And His Promises"

1. Verses 1-2 Tears:

2. Verses 3-6 Testimony:

3. Verses 7-20 Transaction:

1. Verses 1-2 Tears:

Genesis 23:1 Now Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years;

Context – God tested Abraham by commanding him to offer up his son Isaac

Genesis 22 The result was that Abraham feared the Lord, God was 1st in his life. (Abraham believed that God could raise Isaac from the ashes) **Now**, possibly 27 years have gone by.

Sarah when we are first introduced to her is called **Sari** – which means "Contentious" Later her name was changed to **Sarah** – "Princess"

Sarah is living proof that God is alive.

There are 2 different passages that tell us to look to Sarah as an example.

Isaiah 51:2; 1 Peter 3:6

Sarah was a Saint (True Believer), Sarah was also a Sinner:

Sarah is an example of marriage today.

lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; Psalm 91:16 Sarah is the only woman in the Bible whose age at her death is revealed.

Life Is Brief: these were the years of the life of Sarah. That is all it says.

Genesis 23:2

We All Will Face Death: And Sarah died, or Death – means
"Separation" the separation of the spirit from the body. **2 Corinthians 5:8**

In Fellowship With God: in Kiriath-arba "city of four quarters" (that is, **Hebron**) Which means "fellowship" **Beersheba to Hebron Genesis 22:19**
about 26 miles.

In God's Will: in the land of Canaan; The Land of Promise. She was in
God's will.

The last recorded words of the apostle Paul **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

Great Joy For Sarah But Great Pain For Abraham: mourn – "feel or
show deep sorrow or regret for (someone, their death), lament for, shed
tears for, wail" **Death is an enemy 1 Corinthians 15:26**

weep – "shed tears." Some believe this is wrong. It's a lack of faith. *Death
is to be faced stoically. Tears need to be held back.* **Luke 19:41 wept
over it, John 11:35 Jesus wept. Isaiah 53:3**

No Mourning and Weeping, is a false view of spirituality. (God gave
tears)

and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah Abraham chose to be a
mourner. **Death is an enemy 1 Corinthians 15:26**

Ephesians 5:31 THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. No pain or loss
greater than the loss of a spouse (One Flesh)

Grief Is Universal: and to weep for her. 1st time the word "Weep" it
is in conjunction with death. First time that we see Abraham weeping.
Psalms 103:14

1 Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.
(Death is Satan's Boundary of power, where Satan ends God
begins)

**Joni Eareckson Tada "Heaven Your Real Home" Mitsch, Brookside
"Grieving The Loss of Someone You Love"**

2. Verses 3-6 Testimony:

**Genesis 23:3 Then Abraham rose from before his dead, (Best way to
honor the dead is to live)**

(NLT) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 We know this to be the rapture of the
church.

and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying, Heth - *original ancestor of the Hittites, some of the original inhabitants of Israel*

Genesis 23:4 Abraham's Testimony: "I am a stranger and a sojourner among you;

There is never a time when our testimony is brighter than at the time of death.

Stranger – *A person who finds themselves in a culture and a society that does not belong to them.*

Sojourner – *A temporary resident, one who is only staying for a while. That heaven is our home and we long for our Father's house.*

It was death that put it all in perspective and the priorities of life.

1st Mention of a Grave in Scripture. give me a burial site among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." he buried her in faith. God's promise of the land

"Cemetery" means *"Resting Place"* Jesus called death sleep **John 11**

Genesis 23:5-6 Just use one of our tombs!

"Hear us, my lord, you are a mighty prince among us; this says a lot for the testimony of Abraham. **Lived for eternity not self!**
Hebrews 11:9-10

3. Verses 7-20 Transaction:

Genesis 23:7 Be Courteous: bowed to the people of the land 1 Peter 3:8 humble in spirit; Philippians 2:3; bowed to the people two times, Verse 12

(Politeness is not only a social asset but spiritual grace)

Genesis 23:8 Notice the politeness, if you wish!

Genesis 23:9 that he may give (Sell) me the cave of Machpelah which he owns,

This cave/grave was important! Because it was the only piece of property that Abraham owned in his lifetime. **Genesis 12:7; 13:14-17; Hebrews 11:13,16**

Genesis 23:10 We see the business dealings at the city gates.

Genesis 23:11 I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. (Package deal, land and cave)

Genesis 23:12-13

Be Just: I will give the price of the field, accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there." nice to have the offer of the free piece of property. **Proverbs 20:14**

Genesis 23:14-15 Some say, four times over what it was worth! 400 shekels (\$128,000) other land 17 shekels (\$32,000)

Genesis 23:16 Be Prudent: Notice the business transaction that takes place, and all the precautions that are taken.

Genesis 23:17 and all the trees which were in the field, that were within all the confines of its border, were deeded over Notice the lot description of the property

Genesis 23:18 before all who went in at the gate of his city. Witness

Genesis 23:19 Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field at Machpelah today "*The Mosque of Hebron*" has been built over the traditional site. Westbank

This piece of land became the burial spot of the family. **(Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, and Jacob, Joseph)**
(Exception Rachel **Genesis 35:19**)

Genesis 23:20 Death did not detour Abraham's Promise.

Application:

- 1. Sorrowing Love** – Love Is Expressed Through Sorrow. Being Conscience Of Our Loss Produces Sorrow.
- 2. Faithful Service** – Best Way To Honor The Dead Is Too Live. Service Prevents Sorrow From Becoming Dissipated In Idle Regrets And Mere Remembrance.
- 3. Blessed Hope** – Our Loved Ones Are Laid To Rest In The Sure Hope Of The Resurrection. **John 11:25**