

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
NOVEMBER 23, 2022
GENESIS 23:1-9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Genesis 23 is the chapter which records Sarah's burial.
 - a) **GENESIS 23.1:** *"Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years"*
 - b) **GENESIS 23.20:** *"So the field and the cave that is in it were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Heth as property for a burial place."*
2. Consider the relationship between Abraham and Sarah.
 - a) Sarai is first mentioned in Genesis 11.29 where she is referenced as Abram's wife.
 - b) Her name was changed to Sarah in Genesis 17.15 at the age of 99.
 - c) Their lives were full of promise and adventure. (Egypt, Beersheba).
 - d) How long were Abraham and Sarah married? 62+ years. (Gen. 17.1,17,21; 21.1,2,5)
 - e) **GENESIS 23.2:** *"Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her."*
3. Read Genesis 23.1-9

I. LOCATION

- A. The land of Hebron.
 1. **GENESIS 23.2:** *"So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron)..."*
 - a) Hebron was the primary home of Abraham and Sarah. (Gen. 13.18; 14.13; 18.1)
 - b) This was the origin of the Hebrew race. (Gen. 14.13)
 2. **GENESIS 23.9:** *"that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he has, which is at the end of his field."*
 - a) Abraham buried Sarah close to home in a cave next to Mamre. (Gen. 23.17; 25.9)
 - b) Machpelah was owned by Ephron the Hittite. (Gen. 23.8,9)
- B. The people of Hebron.
 1. **GENESIS 23.3:** *"Then Abraham stood up...and spoke to the sons of Heth"*
 - a) Who is Heth? (Gen. 10.15)
 - b) The land of Hebron belonged to the sons of Heth. (Gen. 23.4-6)
 2. **GENESIS 23.10:** *"Now Ephron dwelt among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the presence of the sons of Heth"*
 - a) Ephron was part of the sons of Heth. (Gen. 23.11).
 - b) The Hittites were to be driven out, but they became *"scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes"* (Josh. 23.11-13).
 - c) The Hittites became integrated into the Israelite nation. (2 Chr. 8.7,8; 2 Sam. 11.3)
 3. The sons of Heth were a thorn in Rebekkah's side. (Gen. 27.46; 26.34,35)

II. LESSONS

- A. Abraham lived honorably in the presence of the Gentiles.
 1. Abraham was viewed as a *"mighty prince among us"* (Gen. 23.5). Lit: One whom God elevated to prince. (cf. Gen. 14.18-20)
 2. God is viewed through the lens of our character. (1 Pet. 1.15; 2.12; Phil. 2.15)
- B. Abraham lived honorably with his family.
 1. Having been married for over sixty years, Abraham grieved over her. (Gen. 23.2)
 2. Abraham raised his son to know and honor God. (Gen. 22.7,8)
 3. What kind of example are you to your family? (Col. 3.18-21)