

Genesis chapter 23 opens with the passing of Sarah. The focus of the entire 20 verses revolves around Abraham's desire to purchase a field in the land of Hebron where he can bury his deceased wife. At the heart of the narrative is Sarah's death, but not to be missed is the acquisition of land in Canaanite territory.

Genesis 23:1-20

Sarah's

Death

and Burial

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Circumstances often change our attitudes. Maintaining an eternal perspective is difficult even when things are going well, but so much harder when they are not. Learning how to lean into God's character and His promises despite our circumstances is often a true test of faith.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW has pain and loss affected your walk with the Lord?

DO your circumstances pull you off the course you know God would have you more than they should?

SHARE of a time when God made a particular path clear to you, but because of a hardship you contemplated some kind of course redirection.

HOW do you maintain focus on the things God has given you to do, despite all the distractions that come your way?

Genesis 23:1-20 Read Genesis 23:1-20

Sarah's death and Burial

OBSERVATION

How old was Sarah when she died?

What is the location of Sarah's death?

To whom does Abraham request property from in vs. 3?

Where do the Hittites suggest Abraham should bury Sarah (vs. 6)?

What location does Abraham request for burial in vs. 9, and for what price?

According to vs. 12, who is Ephron and what is his response to Abraham's request to purchase the land?

For what price does Abraham purchase the field?

In vs. 17-20, what do you observe to be the focus of the passage?

INTERPRETATION

What does Sarah's death and Abraham's mourning reveal about their relationship?

What is the significance of Hebron and the Hittites? Consider Genesis 10 and the history of this place.

Why does Abraham not receive the gracious offer to bury Sarah in the tomb of the Hittites? How might Abraham's refusal to receive any plunder in Genesis 14:21-23 convey a similar principle?

Throughout the chapter there seems to be an emphasis on who is present during this transaction (vs. 3, 7, 10, 13, 16, 18). Why do you think this focus is made apparent to the reader?

What were the three parts of the covenant God gave Abraham in 12:1-3, 6-7? How have these three things begun to be established for Abraham and his offspring?

If Abraham would have buried Sarah in the Hittites tomb, or if he had received the property as a gift (instead of purchasing it), how might this have caused a problem claiming the land for himself in the future?

What does Abraham's behavior in this foreign land reveal about his relationship among those living there?

How does this story connect to the larger narrative of Genesis and God's promises given to Israel?

APPLICATION

What can you apply from Abraham's example when dealing with challenging situations in your life?