

# On the Beginning

## 26. Sarah's Death and Burial NOTE ESPECIALLY GENESIS 23

After a long life together, Abraham and Sarah were finally parted by death. Thirty-seven years after the birth of Isaac, Sarah died, and the account of her death and burial in Genesis 23 reminds us of several very important truths.

### 1. Everybody **Dies**.

The first two verses tell us simply that “*Sarah died*”. Of course, she had a very long life, and her life is celebrated in verse one before her death is recorded in verse two. But even the best human lives do come to an end. We are reminded of Genesis 2: 16-17, where we learned that physical death was the result of sin and not part of God's original creation (also 3:19). We are also reminded of Genesis 5, where the first part of the family-line of Christ, a godly line, is characterized by the repeated phrase, “*and he died*.” I Corinthians 15:26 says,

*“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”*

God's plan of redemption with Christ dying for the sins of mankind and rising again, and with the future “*resurrection of life*” (John 5:28-29), will finally bring death to an end (See Revelation 20 and 21). But now, even for the godly, “*it is appointed unto men once to die*” (Hebrews 9:27). Death is a fact of life. Unless Jesus comes for His own first, we are all going to die some day. The question is not *whether* we will die, but rather *when* and *how*. But the Christian can rest in such verses of assurance as these:

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” (John 6:47)*

*“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. . .” (John 11:25)*

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)*

*“... to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:” (Philippians 1:23)*

### 2. People Must **Mourn**.

Christians like Abraham who have no worries about where their believing loved-ones have gone, still must mourn their loss. “*Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her*.” Grieving is almost a physical experience that is relieved greatly by Bible truth and the Holy Spirit, but still must be experienced. You must

take time to mourn. Comforting scriptures such as these can help us through the grieving process, although we must let ourselves grieve:

*“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28 )*

*“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4 )*

*“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27 )*

3. People Must **Move On.**

Now see what Genesis 23 says Abraham did after the period of mourning for Sarah:

*“And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a buryingplace with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.” (Genesis 23:3-4 )*

He stood up and went to buy a burial-place from the Hittites that lived around him. The rest of the chapter tells about the exchange, verbal and monetary, that occurred between him and a man named Ephron for the Cave of Machpelah. This is the only property that Abraham ever personally owned in the land of Canaan. He was a nomad (a sojourner) most of his life, just as Christians are in a spiritual sense (See Hebrews 11:13-16). It seems symbolic that the only property the sojourner Abraham owned on the earth was the place of death. Here we have no real home; our only earthly connection is death. Abraham is a good example of a godly man whose dear one dies before him. He mourned, and then he moved on. Just as it was God's will for Sarah to go to Heaven at a certain time, it was God's will for Abraham to keep on living on the earth. Just as Sarah went to be with God, God was still with Abraham as he continued his physical life. You must keep on. God still has things for you to do for Him!



