

Genesis 23

King James Version (KJV)

23 And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah.

²And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.

³And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, (**Heth is a Hittite**)

⁴I 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.

⁵And the children of Heth answered Abraham, saying unto him,

⁶Hear us, my lord: thou art a mighty prince among us: in the choice of our sepulchres bury thy dead; none of us shall withhold from thee his sepulchre, but that thou mayest bury thy dead. (**They are offering him their sepulchers**)

(It was not the way of Abraham's people to re-use a sepulcher over and over. He wants a place to permanently bury his family. He wants the deed to ensure it remains his)

NOTE: (Abraham always got along with his neighbors. He chose negotiation and communication over force. That is good advice for us also. Get along with people – if it is possible)

⁷And Abraham stood up, and bowed himself to the people of the land, even to the children of Heth.

⁸And he communed with them, saying, If it be your mind that I should bury my dead out of my sight; hear me, and intreat for me to Ephron the son of Zohar,

⁹That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he hath, which is in the end of his field; for as much money as it is worth he shall give it me for a possession of a buryingplace amongst you. (**It's at the end of his property. He never uses it, so it wouldn't be in his way**)

¹⁰And Ephron dwelt among the children of Heth: and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the audience of the children of Heth, even of all

that went in at the gate of his city, saying, (The gate is where judgments took place. Abraham and Ephron negotiated in public. Witnesses are needed in order to prove ownership later)

¹¹ Nay, my lord, hear me: the field give I thee, and the cave that is therein, I give it thee; in the presence of the sons of my people give I it thee: bury thy dead. (He's offering to give him the field and the cave. He is doing it publicly, before witnesses)

¹² And Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land. (This was quite an offer, so Abraham didn't want to offend them)

¹³ And he spake unto Ephron in the audience of the people of the land, saying, But if thou wilt give it, I pray thee, hear me: I will give thee money for the field; take it of me, and I will bury my dead there. (Abraham wants to buy the cave and get the deed, legally; to ensure that future generations of the Hittites cannot reclaim it. This is the right way to do business, especially with land)

¹⁴ And Ephron answered Abraham, saying unto him,

¹⁵ My lord, hearken unto me: the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver; what is that betwixt me and thee? bury therefore thy dead. (Both men were already rich. Ephron didn't need the money. Abraham still wants to make the purchase legal and binding. That will document the deal and give Abraham the title to the land)

¹⁶ And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant. (Abraham paid for the land so as to receive the title)

¹⁷ And the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field, and the cave which was therein, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in all the borders round about, were made sure (made sure = made legal and binding; Abraham received the deed legally)

¹⁸ Unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city. (It was recorded with the city's public records)

¹⁹ And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan.

²⁰ And the field, and the cave that is therein, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession of a buryingplace by the sons of Heth. (In this tomb – Isaac, Sarah, Rebekah, Abraham, Leah – an acrostic for Israel)

NOTE: (Esau was Isaac's first born, but he wouldn't be buried there because he didn't care about his heritage. Although Jacob wasn't buried there either, God renamed him Israel, later in his life)