

Gen. 23:1 And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: *these were* the years of the life of Sarah.

Gen. 23:2 And 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. Sarah lived to be 127 years old. She died in Hebron and Abraham mourned her loss. The wording seems to indicate that Abraham came (from Beersheba?) to mourn for her at her death. Why were they not together?

Gen. 23:3 And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying,

Gen. 23:4 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.

Gen. 23:5 And the children of Heth answered Abraham, saying unto him,
Gen. 23:6 Hear 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.

Gen. 23:7 And Abraham stood up, and bowed himself to the people of the land, *even* to the children of Heth.

Gen. 23:8 And 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,

Gen. 23:9 That 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.

Gen. 23:10 And 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,

Gen. 23:11 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.

Gen. 23:12 And Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land.

Gen. 23:13 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.

Gen. 23:14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying unto him,

Gen. 23:15 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.

Gen. 23:16 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.

Gen. 23:17 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

Gen. 23:18 Unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city.

Gen. 23:19 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.

Gen. 23:20 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.

Hebron was in the land of the Hittites, so Abraham asked to buy some land to bury his wife. The Hittites greatly respected Abraham and considered him a prince. They offered him his pick of any tomb he wanted. He refused a gift, but asked for their support in seeking the purchase of the cave of Machpelah. He would pay full price to purchase the land as a burial site. The owner of the land, Ephron, again offered to give the cave to Abraham in the hearing of many witnesses. Abraham bowed in respect before the people, but insisted on purchasing it. Ephron agrees to 400 shekels of silver as the worth of the land Abraham wanted. Abraham agreed and paid the price. The field and the cave as established by the agreed borders were deeded to Abraham as his property in the presence of many witnesses. Then Abraham buried Sarah in the cave.

(11/05) "I am a stranger...." – This fact is referenced in the book of Hebrews.

Heb. 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb. 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

Heb. 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

Heb. 11:16 But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Abraham knew he was not to be around when his descendants entered the promised land; in fact, he wasn't looking forward to living on planet earth at all. He was looking towards his home in heaven.

This was one of the sites we visited in the Holy Land that was designated as authentic, not traditional. It was pretty unbelievable to think that it can still be identified as the exact site from so long ago. I hope I get to go back some day.

It's interesting that God inspired so much detail regarding the purchase of this land by Abraham. I think I must be missing something.