

# Burying our Dead!

Genesis 23:1 And **Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old:** *these were* the years of the life of Sarah. 2 And Sarah died in Kirjath-arba; the same *is* Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham **came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.** 3 And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, 4 **I am a stranger and a sojourner with you:** give me a possession of a **burying place** with you, that I may **bury my dead** out of my sight. 5 And the children of Heth answered Abraham, saying unto him, 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.** 7 And Abraham stood up, and bowed himself to the people of the land, *even* to the children of Heth. 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, 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.** 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, **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.** **12** And Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land. **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.** **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.** **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. **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 **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. 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.

- Burying is mentioned 11 times in these 20 verses
- Interesting to think of how burying your loved ones was handled in the life of Abraham
- There was dignity and care given
- Money was spent
- He mourns for his wife
- He buries her out of his sight

1. A great lady of God died **Genesis 23:1 And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah.** 2 And Sarah died in Kirjath-arba; the same *is* Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham **came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.**

- a. There are two places in the Bible where we are challenged to look to Sarah
  - i. Old Testament **Isaiah 51:1** **Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, And to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. 2 Look unto Abraham your father, And unto Sarah that bare you:** For I called him alone, And blessed him, and increased him.
  - ii. New Testament **I Peter 3:6** **Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord:** whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.
  - iii. Never told to look to Mary or any other woman like this
- b. She was a good wife and mother! She was married to Abraham for over 60 years!
  - i. She followed her husband when even he didn't know where he was going
  - ii. She understood his dream and did all in her power to help him realize it even at great sacrifice and risk to herself

- c. A heroine of the faith [Hebrews 11:11](#) Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.
- d. A good example for wives [I Peter 3:1](#) Likewise, ye wives, **be in subjection** to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may **without the word be won** by the conversation of the wives; [2](#) While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear. [3](#) Whose **adorning let it not be that outward adorning** of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; [4](#) But *let it be* **the hidden man of the heart**, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. [5](#) For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, **adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:** [6](#) Even as **Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord:** whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

e. Sarah died in faith [Hebrews 11:11](#) Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. [12](#) Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so *many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. [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.

- f. Sarah was not perfect
- i. She gave Abraham her maid
  - ii. She mistreated Hagar
  - iii. She laughed in unbelief
  - iv. She lied about laughing

## 2. God's man deals with death

- a. He mourns his wife's death [2](#) **And Sarah died in Kirjath-arba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and**

Abraham **came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.**

- i. These are the first tears recorded in the Bible
- ii. It is not wrong to weep when your loved ones die
- iii. Death is our great enemy and obviously separates us from those we love, temporarily [I Corinthians 15:26](#)  
**The last enemy *that shall be destroyed is death.***
- iv. Jesus wept [John 11:35](#) **Jesus wept.**
- v. We are told not to sorrow as those that have no hope [I Thessalonians 4:13](#) **But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye **sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.**** [14](#) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus **will God bring with him.** [15](#) For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. [16](#) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: [17](#) Then we which are

alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore **comfort one another with these words.**

b. We do not mourn as others because we understand the difference in our death and theirs

i. Ours

1. For us death is gain **Philippians 1:21** For to me to live

*is* Christ, and **to die is gain.** 22 But if I live in

the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I

shall choose I wot not. 23 For **I am in a strait**

**betwixt two**, having a **desire to depart,**

**and to be with Christ; which is far**

**better:**

2. To be absent from the body is to be present with the

Lord **II Corinthians 5:1** For we know that if our

earthly house of *this* tabernacle were dissolved, we

have a building of God, an house not made with

hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan,

earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house



which is from heaven: **3** If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. **4** For we that are in *this* tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that **mortality might be swallowed up of life.** **5** Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing *is* God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. **6**

Therefore ***we are always***

**confident,** knowing that, whilst we are at home **in the body, we are absent from the Lord:** **7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **8**

**We are confident,** *I say,* and willing rather to be **absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.**

3. We are blessed in our death **Revelation 14:13** And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, **Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord** from

henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

4. Our death is precious in His sight [Psalm 116:15](#)

Precious in the sight of the Lord *Is* the death of his saints.

5. We never really die [John 11:25](#) Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, **yet shall he live:**

[26](#) And whosoever liveth and believeth in me **shall never die.** Believest thou this?

6. Through the gospel we have life and immortality

[II Timothy 1:10](#) But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath **abolished death**, and hath **brought life and immortality** to light through the gospel:

ii. The death of the wicked

1. They have no hope [Proverbs 11:7](#) When a wicked man dieth, *his* expectation shall perish: And the hope of unjust *men* perisheth.

2. It is over for him [Job 18:5-6](#) Yea, **the light of the wicked shall be put out**, And the spark of his fire

**shall not shine.** 6 The light shall be dark in his tabernacle, And his candle shall be put out with him.

3. They live their eyes in the place of torment

Luke 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: **the rich man also died, and was buried;** 23 **And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,** and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for **I am tormented in this flame.** 25 But Abraham said, **Son, remember** that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a **great gulf fixed:** so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, **lest they also come into**

**this place of torment.** 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, **neither will they be persuaded,** though one rose from the dead.

### 3. Lessons to be learned

a. It is good and expected that we would mourn the death of our loved ones

i. Making funeral preparations was expected 3 **And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, 4 I am a stranger and a sojourner with you:** give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.

ii. He mourned over his wife but knew that he had to bury her and move on 4 **I am a stranger and a sojourner with you:** give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.

iii. We cannot mourn over our dead forever

- b. We must realize who we are in this world, strangers and pilgrims **I Peter 2:11** Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;
- i. We know we are leaving and we can take nothing from here **I Timothy 6:7** For we brought nothing into *this world, and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.
- ii. We send our investments on ahead, we invest in the eternal **Matthew 6:19** Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: **20** But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **21** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
- c. We expect to depart **II Timothy 4:6** For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
- d. We get a new resurrected body **Philippians 3:20-21** For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: **21** Who shall **change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,** according to the working

whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. **I John 3:1-3** Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. **2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and **it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him;** for we shall see him as he is. **3** And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

**I Corinthians 15:49** And as we have borne the **image of the earthy,** we shall also bear the **image of the heavenly.** **50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. **51** Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed,** **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. **53** For **this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.** **54** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to

pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

- i. This is not the same body but a changed body, a new body
- ii. We will be raised with a body like the Lord Jesus, a heavenly body