



“Living and Dying by Faith”

11/17/24 Text: Genesis 23

1. Faith sees beyond the grave. (vs. 1-2)

[1] Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. [2] And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

* Isaiah 51:1–2; Ecclesiastes 7:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Hebrews 11:11-13; Genesis 12:7; 13:15; 13:17; 15:18; 17:8

2. Faith sees God’s promises as ultimate reality. (vs. 3-16)

[3] And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, [4] “I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.”

[5] The Hittites answered Abraham, [6] “Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.” [7] Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. [8] And he said to them, “If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, [9] that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”

[10] Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, [11] “No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.”

[12] Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. [13] And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.” [14] Ephron answered Abraham, [15] “My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.” [16] Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.

*Hebrews 11:9-10; Philippians 3:20-21

3. Faith sees with eternal perspective. (vs. 17-20)

[17] So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over [18] to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. [19] After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. [20] The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.

*Joshua 14:11-12; Hebrews 11:13-16; Hebrews 11:9-10; Philippians 3:20-21; Job 19:25-26; Colossians 3:1-4; Ephesians 2:6; 2 Corinthians 4:18

Application Questions: Application/Discussion Questions: How does Abraham’s decision to secure a burial plot in Canaan demonstrate his faith in God’s promises? How can we show similar faith in God’s promises today? What does the act of burial, as seen in this story, reveal about Abraham’s view of life, death, and resurrection? How should our beliefs about eternity impact our daily decisions? Why is it important to live with an eternal perspective like Abraham? Discuss practical ways we can remind ourselves to prioritize God’s promises over temporary gains? How does Abraham & Sarah’s example of ‘dying in faith’ challenge us in our approach to life’s end? How will you cultivate a faith that endures until the end?

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