

Genesis 23: A Solemn Transaction

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Approximately **twenty** years have passed since Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac.

Chapters 23-25 provide a bridge from **Abraham** to **Isaac**.

Most of chapter 23 is taken up with the details of a **business transaction**.

Abraham and Sarah were married for more than **sixty** years.

How does Sarah provide an example? (Is 51:2; 1 Peter 3:6; Heb 11:11)

Abraham's grief is a reflection of **affection** rather than **duty**.

"Tears are a tribute due to our deceased friends." –Matthew Henry

The Hittites are referred to in earlier translations as "the sons of **Heth**."

The Hittites were among the cursed descendants of **Ham**. (Gen 10:15)

Abraham has a sense of **urgency** for burying Sarah. (Gen 23:4)

"Death will make those unpleasant to our sight who while they lived were the desire of our eyes." –Matthew Henry

Abraham affirms his status as a **foreigner** and a **sojourner**. His purchase of land is not for the purpose of **settling** in the land. (Gen 23:4)

Even though Abraham is regarded as an outsider, he is held in high regard by the Hittites:

- "lord" (*adown*)
- "prince of God" (*elohiyim nasiy*)
- "none of us will withhold from you his tomb"

How does Abraham show humility in the presence of the Hittites?

The purchase of the land was accomplished in a way that would prevent any future **dispute**.

How is the purchase of a burial plot a twofold expression of Abraham's faith? (Heb 11:1-22)

There are only two plots of land purchased by Abraham's family: this one, and a plot of land purchased by **Jacob** near Shechem. (Gen 33:19) How does this second parcel of land become significant after the Exodus? (Gen 50:25; Ex 13:19; Josh 24:32)

Who is buried on this plot?

1. **Sarah** 2. **Abraham** 3. **Isaac** 4. **Rebekah** 5. **Leah** 6. **Jacob**

What may be signified by burying family members together in one place?