

GENESIS

God's unveiling plan of Redemption and Blessing

Study 38: Strangers and Exiles (Genesis 23:1-20)

READ Gen 22:20-23:20 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig's [sermon](#).

When Sarah, the wife of Abraham, died, Abraham purchased a family burial site in the land of Canaan from its Hittite owners through an elaborate negotiating process. In this act Abraham demonstrated his full belief in the complete fulfillment of God's promises toward him, his descendants and through him to the world, while also declaring his intention to remain in the place that God had promised.

Main Lesson: God's people live as strangers and exiles in this fallen world and show by our actions we are trusting in the full fulfillment of God's promises in time and eternity

Questions:

1. A. How did Abraham respond to Sarah's death? How is this a model for us?

B. How should the grief of a Christian differ from that of a non-Christian when loved ones die? Why? See 1 Thess 4:13-14.
2. What might Abraham have been tempted to do regarding the burial of Sarah and the future raising of Isaac, especially after receiving news from home (cf. 22:20-23)? What does he do instead?
3. How does Abraham describe himself in Gen 23:4?

4. From Heb 11:9-16, what were Abraham and Sarah ultimately seeking as they obediently sojourned through Canaan?
5. What does it mean to you to be an alien and a stranger in this world (1 Pet 2:11)? How does it affect the decisions you make from day to day? See Phil 3:20.
6. A. Why was Abraham so intent on purchasing a piece of property on which to bury Sarah?

B. Why was it so important for the patriarchs to have their bones buried in the promised land? See Gen 23:19-20; 25:9; 49:29-31; 50:1-2, 12-14, 25-26; Ex 13:19; Josh 24:32.
7. How can we know that our hope in God's promise of eternal life is not just wishful thinking? What guarantees our hope?
8. Some people believe that burial, instead of cremation, is the most appropriate way to honour the dead and declare one's hope in Christ's return. What is your opinion and how might you support this with Scripture?
9. How has this lesson encouraged you to persevere in your walk with Christ?

STOP AND PRAY:

Pray: *that, as strangers and exiles in this world, we would face distress, difficulties and even death with unwavering hope in the future fulfilment of God's promises*