

# Israel's Patriarch

## A Study in Genesis 12-24

A Foothold in Canaan  
Genesis 23:1-20  
January 3, 2021

So the field and the cave that is in it, were deeded over to Abraham for a burial site by the sons of Heth.  
-Genesis 23:20

### I. DEATH—THE GREAT LEVELER

- Sarah lived a full life, and yet death caught up to her (Vs. 1).
- This is not “the circle of life.” Life, biblically, is linear. History has a start and a finish.
- Since the Fall, we are appointed to live, then to die, then to face judgment. We should take this to heart (Eccl. 7:1-2; Heb. 9:27-28).

### II. A COSTLY FOOTHOLD

- In the polite dealings for a burial place for Sarah, Abraham pays an exorbitant price for a field, some trees, and a cave (Vss. 15-20).
- In God's providential plan for salvation, nothing comes cheap (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 53:4-6; Luke 9:23-26; John 3:16; Phil. 2:5-8).
- Abraham believes God when he is promised a land and a heritage for his descendants. What *he* receives of that land is a mere field and a cave as a resting place (Gen. 12:7, 13:14-17; 15:7, 16).

### III. THE PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE

- God has laid a stone in Zion. It is a sure and precious stone. To stand on this stone should be our great striving (Isa. 28:16; 1 Peter 2:4-10).
- Like Abraham, we too are looking to a Promised Land (Luke 12:32-34; Heb. 11:8-10; 2 Peter 3:13-14).

**KNOW:** The time of Abraham is drawing to an end. Life is not a great circle, but a linear path that leads to the grave, and beyond. Sarah's death leads to Abraham's purchase of the only land he will own in the land of promise.

**DO:** Place a foothold in heaven.

### Suggested Reading:

*Heaven* by Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library #236 ALC)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Genesis 23:1-20

1. What is this chapter telling us about the lives of Abraham and Sarah?
2. Why does Sarah die? What should that tell us?
3. We talked Sunday about the costliness of God's plan of salvation. In what ways have you considered this?
4. The writer of Hebrews tells us that Abraham endured all he endured because of a hope for heaven. What can we learn from this?
5. What do you think about heaven? What are your hopes? Your concerns?
6. What are your application points from this text and/or Sunday's message?