

BOOK OF GENESIS

GENESIS 23

GENESIS 22:20-23 FOLLOW-UP

“A Heroine From the Non-Chosen Family:

This story also begins a key theme that repeats itself many times over throughout the Hebrew Bible: God raises up a female heroine from a non-chosen lineage whose faithfulness carries forward the lineage of promise.

- Rivqah (Rebekah): In Genesis 24, she is depicted as a faithful female counterpart to Avraham.
- Leah: In Genesis 29-30, she is the persistent, unloved wife who gives birth to Judah.
- Tamar: In Genesis 38, she is the courageous woman who risks her social integrity to save the lineage.
- Pharaoh’s daughter: In Exodus 2, she rescues Moses out of the waters.
- Tsipporah: In Exodus 4, she rescues Moses from God’s judgment.
- Rahab: In Joshua 2, she rescues the Israelite spies.
- Deborah and Jael: In Judges 4-5, these women rescue the Israelites.
- Hannah, Avigail, the wise woman of Tekoa, the wise woman of Abel-Beth, Maakah, Ruth, and more!!” – The Bible Project

Question: What important heroine from a non-chosen lineage does Jesus choose to carry forward the lineage of promise?

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VERSES 1-2	ADDED TEXTUAL NOTES, QUESTIONS, OTHER
<p>¹Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old. ²She died at Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her.</p>	<p>Vv. 2 – What is significant about this place? Skip ahead and re-read verse 17-19. Think Ch. 13 & 18!</p>
VERSES 3-9	
<p>³Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites. He said, ⁴“I am a foreigner and stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead.”</p> <p>⁵The Hittites replied to Abraham, ⁶“Sir, listen to us. You are a mighty prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will refuse you his tomb for burying your dead.”</p> <p>⁷Then Abraham rose and bowed down before the people of the land, the Hittites. ⁸He said to them, “If you are willing to let me bury my dead, then listen to me and intercede with Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf ⁹so he will sell me the cave of Machpelah, which belongs to him and is at the end of his field. Ask him to sell it to me for the full price as a burial site among you.”</p>	<p>V. 4. – This is an important detail for the whole Genesis/Biblical narrative, but especially for this chapter.</p> <p>Vv. 7. – Describe Abraham’s posture and demeanor toward “the nations” in this whole discourse.</p> <p>Vv. 8 – “Ephron” – means “dusty.” Why might this be important?</p> <p>Vv. 9 – “Cave” means “Naked/Nakedness”</p> <p>“Machpelah” – means “pair”</p>

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	<p>What happens when you put these two words together in their deeper meaning? And what do you make of it?</p>
VERSES 10-16	
<p>¹⁰ Ephron the Hittite was sitting among his people and he replied to Abraham in the hearing of all the Hittites who had come to the gate of his city. ¹¹ “No, my lord,” he said. “Listen to me; I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. I give it to you in the presence of my people. Bury your dead.”</p> <p>¹² Again Abraham bowed down before the people of the land ¹³ and he said to Ephron in their hearing, “Listen to me, if you will. I will pay the price of the field. Accept it from me so I can bury my dead there.”</p> <p>¹⁴ Ephron answered Abraham, ¹⁵ “Listen to me, my lord; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver, but what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.”</p> <p>¹⁶ Abraham agreed to Ephron’s terms and weighed out for him the price he had named in the hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weight current among the merchants.</p>	<p>Vv. 10-11 – Describe Ephron’s response to Abraham’s request.</p> <p>We learn that blessing not only comes through Abraham interceding for the nations, but also through a posture of humility toward the nations!</p>

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VERSES 17-20	
<p>¹⁷ So Ephron's field in Machpelah near Mamre—both the field and the cave in it, and all the trees within the borders of the field—was deeded ¹⁸ to Abraham as his property in the presence of all the Hittites who had come to the gate of the city. ¹⁹ Afterward Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre (which is at Hebron) in the land of Canaan. ²⁰ So the field and the cave in it were deeded to Abraham by the Hittites as a burial site.</p>	<p>V. 17-20 – The negotiation is ended, with the cave and field being deeded to Abraham. Why does this matter in relationship to what we have covered so far in this chapter?</p> <p>Final thought: Since Adam and Eve's failure, death became the organic consequence. It was not how God intended it. God intended humanity to reach the potential of eternal life. This also means eternal co-rulers & inheritors/possessors of the earth. Now, the first step of God's Abraham of inheriting/possessing the earth is done in a unique and unexpected way – through death. Things brings forward an important theme that will be carried throughout Scripture: to bring about His blessing, God though not willing it originally, will purpose death to serve His greater purposes and restoration of Eden. We see this in culmination in the life and death of Jesus, the ultimate restorer. Jesus travels through death to life. We then, travel through death to life, having been restored by Jesus to our birthright & inheritance.</p>