

The Cave of Machpelah

Genesis 23

Genesis 25:1-11

by Don Falkos

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Sarah died when she was one hundred twenty-seven years old.

After Abraham had mourned for her, he went to the people of Hebron, the Hittites, and said, "I am a foreigner and own no land here. Will someone please let me buy a piece of property where I may bury my wife?"

"Sir," they said, "you are an important man. Anyone here would be honored to give you a place to bury your dead."

Abraham was interested in a particular piece of property. He spoke to the man who owned it, "Please, sell me the cave of Machpelah at the end of your field."

The man replied, "Sir, in front of all these witnesses, I freely give you the entire field, including the cave. The property is only worth four hundred pieces of silver. We don't need to concern ourselves with such a trifling sum. Take the land. It's yours."

The land was worth nowhere near that amount, but Abraham paid the man four hundred pieces of silver. It was in the cave of Machpelah that Abraham buried Sarah.

By now Abraham was a very old man, and yet he got married again and had six more sons. He was generous to them, but when Abraham died at the good old age of one hundred seventy-five, he left everything to Isaac.

His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham, Father of Many Nations, beside his wife Sarah in the cave of Machpelah.