

Sarah Died in the Land of Canaan and Abraham Went to Weep Over Her

23: 1-2

DIG: Why can Sarah be considered the mother of all believers? How old was she when she died? How old was Abraham? Isaac? Why are their ages listed at this time? What is mentioned here for the first time in the TaNaKh?

REFLECT: Is there a woman in your family history that is known for being a godly woman? Is there a godly woman in your life that you look up to and emulate? What touches you the most about Avraham's reaction to his wife's death?

Parashah 5: Hayyei-Sarah (Sarah's life) 23:1-25:18

(see my commentary on **Deuteronomy Af** - Parashah)

At the time of **Sarah's death**, the family had evidently moved from Beersheba back to Hebron. **She** is the only woman whose age at **death** is mentioned in both the TaNaKh and the B'rit Chadashah. This indicates that **she** has a special place in biblical history and is an example to follow (**Isaiah 51:1-2**). **She lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old (23:1)**. As the mother of the son of promise, **she** became the mother of all believers (**First Peter 3:6**). **Abraham** would have been a hundred and thirty-seven years old, and **Isaac** thirty-seven years old when his mother died.

She died at Kiriath Arba, or *the city of Arabia*, which eventually became known as Hebron, which means *friend*, because **Abraham was the friend of God (14:13, 18:1)**, in the land of Canaan (**23:2a**). They had lived there many years earlier. This Kiriath Arba/Hebron connection is found elsewhere in the Bible (**Joshua 14:15, 15:13 and 59, 20:7, 21:11; Judges 1:10**).

For some reason, **Abraham** was not present at the time of **her death**. **She** was in Hebron and **he** was in Beersheba (**21:33-34, 22:19**). **He** might have been away on business, or perhaps **they** had two residences. At any rate, when **Avraham** heard that **she** had died, **he** went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over the lifeless body of his soul mate (**23:2b**). It seems possible that **her** death was mercifully quick because if **she** had been suffering for a long time, **Avraham** most assuredly would have been at **her** side. This was the death of his friend and life-long companion. **Abraham** loved **Sarah** deeply, and it must have grieved him terribly not to be with **her** when **she** died. The first man found weeping in the Bible is mourning the loss of a woman.