

# Isaac Died and His Sons Esau and Jacob Buried Him

## 35: 27-29

Since **Jacob's** departure from Beersheba to Haran, **Isaac's** family had moved back to Hebron where **David** would one day be anointed king over **Isra'el** (**Second Samuel 5:3**). **Jacob** (Hebrew: **Ya'akov**) came home to his father **Isaac** in **Mamre**, near **Kiriath Arba** (that is **Hebron**) where **Abraham** and **Isaac** had stayed (**35:27**). He had visited his father several times during the ten years since he returned from Haran, but now his entire household had come home with him. His children and his wives would have been very eager to see and hear the head of the family that they had heard about their entire lives.

**Isaac** (Hebrew: **Yitz'chak**) lived to be one hundred and eighty years (**35:28**). He actually lived twelve more years after **Jacob** returned to him. **Yitz'chak** was still living when he thought **Joseph** had been lost to a wild animal, although in reality, he had been sold into slavery in Egypt (see **Jb - When Midianite Merchants Came by, His Brothers Sold Joseph for Twenty Shekels of Silver**). But **Moses**, under the inspiration of **God the Holy Spirit**, found it appropriate to mention **Isaac's** death here.

Then he breathed his last and died and was gathered to his people, old and full of years. Although not much is said about it in **Genesis**, the patriarchs did believe in life after death. **Isaac's** spirit, no doubt, was transported to **Sh'ol**, where the spirits of **Shem**, **Noah**, **Abraham** and other righteous of the **TaNakh** were resting and waiting for the redemption and resurrection (**Luke 16:19-31; Ephesians 4:7-10**).

It is noteworthy that his sons **Esav** and **Ya'akov** buried him (**35:29**). They were still in fellowship with each other many years after their first reunion. Coming together once more, they participated in the burial ceremony of their father. **Yitz'chak** was buried in the same sepulcher with **Rebekah**, **Abraham** and **Sarah**, in the cave in **Ephron's** field in **Machpelah** that **Abraham** had purchased near **Mamre** (which is **Hebron**) (**23:17-20**).<sup>542</sup> We do not have any record that the two brothers ever saw each other again.

**Isaac's** death is only reported here in order to end this *toldot*. That is not what happens chronologically, but in keeping with the purpose of **Genesis**, one person's story is ended so another person's story can begin.

**Isaac died** at the time that **Yosef** was elevated to second in command of Egypt (see **Jv - Joseph as Prime Minister**), never learning that **Joseph** was still alive in Egypt. So **Yitz'chak** died about ten years before **Jacob** moved to Egypt. With the summary of **Jacob's** family and the death of **Isaac**, the story of **Ya'akov** comes to an end. But before proceeding to the account of what becomes of **Jacob**, namely **Joseph**, Moses, under the inspiration of **the Holy Spirit**, first disposes of the non-seed line of **Esau**.

**Jacob** suffers four devastating blows in **Chapter 35**. Deborah, who had cared for him from the time he was born dies (**35:8**), **Rachel**, his beloved wife dies (**35:19**), **Reuben**, his firstborn son tries to seize his father's position and violates one of his concubines (**35:22a**), and **Isaac**, his father, dies (**35:29**).

It was a great period of adversity and suffering for **Ya'akov**, and as we live our lives we will suffer similar adversity as well. **Jesus** said: **Your Father in heaven causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45)**. But unlike those without faith in **Yeshua**, no matter how severe the burden, there is one thing the believer can count on. Suffering will never destroy the child of **God**. It cannot and will not claim victory over the godly. As Rabbi Sha'ul so eloquently said: **Who will separate us from the love the Messiah? Trouble? Persecution? Hunger? Poverty? Danger? War? As the Renewed Testament puts it, "For your sake we are being put to death all day long, we are considered sheep to be slaughtered."** No, in all things we are super conquerors, through the One who has loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers, neither what exists nor what is coming, neither powers above nor powers below, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of **God** which comes to us through the **Messiah Yeshua**, our Lord (**Romans 8:35-39**).