

ther of Rebekah.) These were the eight sons Milch bore to Abraham's brother Nahor. 22:24 His concubine, whose name was Remamah, also bore him children – Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

The Death of Sarah

23 Sarah lived 127 years. 23:2 Then she died in Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

23:3 Then Abraham got up from mourning his dead wife and said to the sons of Heth, 23:4 "I am a temporary settler among you. Grant me ownership^a of a burial site among you so that I may bury my dead."

23:5 The sons of Heth answered Abraham, 23:6 "Listen, sir, you are a mighty prince among us! You may bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will refuse you his tomb to prevent you from burying your dead."

23:7 Abraham got up and bowed down to the local people, the sons of Heth. 23:8 Then he said to them, "If you agree that I may bury my dead, then hear me out. Ask Ephron the son of Zohar 23:9 if he will sell me the cave of Machpelah that belongs to him; it is at the end of his field. Let him sell it to me publicly for the full price, so that I may own it as a burial site."

23:10 (Now Ephron was sitting among the sons of Heth.) Ephron the Hethite replied to Abraham in the hearing of the sons of Heth – before all who entered the gate of his city – 23:11 "No, my lord! Hear me out. I sell you both the field and the cave that is in it. In the presence of my people I sell it to you. Bury your dead."

23:12 Abraham bowed before the local people 23:13 and said to Ephron in their hearing, "Hear me, if you will. I pay to you the price of the field. Take it from me so that I may bury my dead there."

23:14 Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, 23:15 "Hear me, my lord. The land is worth 400 pieces of silver, but what is that between me and you? So bury your dead."

23:16 So Abraham agreed to Ephron's price and weighed out for him the price that Eph-

ron had quoted in the hearing of the sons of Heth – 400 pieces of silver, according to the standard measurement at the time.

23:17 So Abraham secured Ephron's field in Machpelah, next to Mamre, including the field, the cave that was in it, and all the trees that were in the field and all around its border, 23:18 as his property in the presence of the sons of Heth before all who entered the gate of Ephron's city.

23:19 After this Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave in the field of Machpelah next to Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 23:20 So Abraham secured the field and the cave that was in it as a burial site from the sons of Heth.

The Wife for Isaac

24 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in everything. 24:2 Abraham said to his servant, the senior one in his household who was in charge of everything he had, "Put your hand under my thigh 24:3 so that I may make you solemnly promise by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth: You must not acquire a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living. 24:4 You must go instead to my country and to my relatives to find a wife for my son Isaac."

24:5 The servant asked him, "What if the woman is not willing to come back with me to this land? Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?"

24:6 "Be careful never to take my son back there!" Abraham told him. 24:7 "The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and the land of my relatives,^b promised me with a solemn oath, 'To your descendants I will give this land: He will send his angel^c before you so that you may find a wife for my son from there. 24:8 But if the woman is not willing to come back with you, you will be free from this oath of mine. But you must not take my son back there!'" 24:9 So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and gave his solemn promise he would carry out his wishes.