

God
Preaching the Gospel to
Abraham

Genesis 22:17 – 23:20



~ I'm not sure if there are any other crises Abraham could possibly go through in his life than the myriad catastrophe's we have already seen. We've been with Abraham at least one hundred years in our Spiritual Safari; and we've followed him and Sarah all the way through their lives. The entire last report felt like Abraham was altogether against God; with him being involved in child sacrifice and otherwise acting contrary to the teachings he had been given directly from the Lord. Very confusing. Abraham knew child sacrifice was wrong - and we dealt with that in our safari; so, if you have not read our previous report from Genesis, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now. Here, God is making it perfectly clear that we need someone to stand in the gap between us and Him; or, as Job says, "...someone to put our hand into the Hand of a Holy God!" Only the Lord Jesus Christ can ever do that, friends; and He does it by reaching out and holding us and sustaining us through our disasters in our lives.

Eve, the mother of all, has been promised a man that shall save. In our last report, we walked with Abraham throughout the land where Jesus was crucified; where God had assured Abraham He would provide Himself a Lamb. Isaac is the only one through which God's promise to Eve could ever have possibly been kept. Of course, Abraham didn't offer Isaac as a sacrifice; ultimately, he offered a ram. Well, likewise, God has provided Christ for us today. Why did God permit Abraham's testing to take him all the way to raising the knife on Isaac? After all, it was wrong – because that could never – ever – ever be right! Well, if you believe the Bible then you'll know that God never intended to let Isaac even get a splinter from the wood that was for the fire! A little inconvenience from being hog-tied probably wasn't too cool - but, whatever! God stopped Abraham and spared his son; but the True and Living God spared not His Own Son, but gave Him up freely for us all ~

XXII

17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

~ Galatians 3: 16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ ~

~ Galatians 3: 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the nations through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed ~

~ God preached the Gospel to Abraham the moment God required Abraham to offer Isaac upon an altar. All nations shall be blessed in Christ – Christ is the seed here - and all nations have been blessed. This is the Gospel given directly to Abraham. There is a huge misconception that these Old Testament saints were dreamily outstanding men – but – probably not quite as smart as we are. I think that most people think that Isaac and Jacob didn't really know much at all about the Lord Jesus Christ. This is what leads, ultimately, to the Jews continuing to seek a Messiah. They don't think the Savior has yet come. My opinion is that Abraham knew more about Christ Jesus than anyone reading this so-called safari will ever know. Without the distractions of the internet and telephone alone I think Abraham likely had just a little bit more time for communion with God than we have today. Abraham knew more about the Gospel than he is given credit for, certainly. The Lord Jesus said, "Abraham saw my day and rejoiced." It took Abraham three days to get down to where God called him to be – so God gave Isaac back alive on the third day. So, we have death and resurrection....

19 So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

20 And it came to pass after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, Behold, Milcah, she hath also born children unto thy brother Nahor;

~ Abraham had left Nahor way back in Haran. Here, we have the un-godly line cross paths with Abraham again – which reveals an interesting side light into the family. We have already said that we don't follow this other lineage - but they do continue to cross our paths continually throughout our expedition through the entire Word of God. All we have of them are just a crazy bunch of names. Could you imagine showing up on the school yard playground with a name like Cheesed, err, I mean, Chesed? Please! And did Chese have a Buz? - It could have been his cuz! Who knows? ~

21 Huz his firstborn, and Buz his brother, and Kemuel the father of Aram,

22 And Chesed, and Hazo, and Pildash, and Jidlaph, and Bethuel.

23 And Bethuel begat Rebekah: these eight Milcah did bear to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

24 And his concubine, whose name was Reumah, she bare also Tebah, and Gaham, and Thahash, and Maachah.

XXIII

~ What a depressing drop-in by our drop-out relatives at the end of chapter twenty-two; but we also have another sad episode as we say goodbye to Sarah. It's a good thing the relatives are around for the funeral – or maybe they knew there was going to be one? Sarah is one hundred twenty-seven years old and was ninety when Isaac was born. We will see Abraham purchase a cave that was in the land God had given to him – so – that's strange. See, the hope of the Old Testament saint was in the land. The hope of their future was a physical blessing promised to the nation Israel in the Old Testament. Today, the church is promised all spiritual

blessings in the Heavens – but we are not made any promises down here on earth regarding our health, wealth - or even our overall satisfaction or enjoyment of life. God is only interested in your holiness, my beloved....

1 And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: these were the years of the life of Sarah.

2 And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.

3 And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying,

4 I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.

5 And the children of Heth answered Abraham, saying unto him,

6 Hear us, my lord: thou art a mighty prince among us: in the choice of our sepulchers bury thy dead; none of us shall withhold from thee his sepulchre, but that thou mayest bury thy dead.

~ I hear a lot of talk today about we're a pilgrim and a sojourner; as CS Lewis wrote so many years ago, but Abraham calls himself a stranger and a pilgrim in the PROMISED LAND! This earth isn't our Promised Land – thank God. Friends, we have got to get these things sorted out properly, correctly and completely in our thinking. Abraham had made a tremendous impression on these men. They are very generous, and they offer to Abraham, “....take your pick – whatever you want - it's all yours!” Abraham was a mighty prince. His influence was heavy....

7 And Abraham stood up, and bowed himself to the people of the land, even to the children of Heth.

8 And he communed with them, saying, If it be your mind that I should bury my dead out of my sight; hear me, and intreat for me to Ephron the son of Zohar,

9 That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he hath, which is in the end of his field; for as much money as it is worth he shall give it me for a possession of a burying place amongst you.

~ As we continue through the Bible, we are going to discover God has two purposes for our lives. There is an earthly purpose and there is a Heavenly purpose. The earth on which we live is going on into eternity. It will get another renovation and become a new Heaven and a new earth but it's still going to be an earth. Earth will be inhabited throughout eternity. That is the promise God gave to Abraham and that's the promise God gave to those after him in the Old Testament; specifically, the nation Israel. The earth isn't going to be thrown away, either; it won't be taken to the dump and put in a landfill. God doesn't intend to get rid of it, but He does intend to do something new. The new Heaven and the new earth are inhabited into eternity - and that was the hope of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the entire nation of Israel.

Abraham wanted to be buried with Sarah so that when the resurrection happened they would be together – and together in that land – the land God gave them. Abraham had no clue about the billions of people that would come after him; but they also will ALL be raised from the dead - some to eternal damnation and everlasting shame and some to eternal life in Christ! The apostles had a very good practical and working knowledge of the Old Testament by the time they ended up in the upper room with Jesus. Jesus saith, “let your hearts not be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many abiding places. I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go and prepare a place for you I shall return and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there shall you be also.” Jesus is talking about the New Jerusalem here, friends. The New Jerusalem is being prepared today and that is the place that the church is going when the rapture happens. It will be the eternal abode of the church. Sadly, this is either all brand new or very foggy in the understanding of too many Christians today. God says nowhere that He is going to take Abraham away to Heaven! Abraham believed God.

So, Abraham was buried where he wanted to be buried – for a very definite reason. Above his burying place is a Mohammedan mosque. Any American that wants to go to Hebron and pay to look through a hole in the floor in a cave where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Sarah and Rebecca may or may not be buried will be met with extreme antagonism. Abraham wanted to be there because that's where his promises are! Our hope today in this Age of Grace is a Heavenly hope. I think we can see why Abraham and God, and now you and I, are dwelling upon this so much at this particular time. So, Abraham closes the deal on buying the cave....

10 And Ephron dwelt among the children of Heth: and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the audience of the children of Heth, even of all that went in at the gate of his city, saying,

11 Nay, my lord, hear me : the field give I thee, and the cave that is therein, I give it thee; in the presence of the sons of my people give I it thee: bury thy dead.

12 And Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land.

~ Abraham is not some club carrying caveman. He is very polite, refined and dignified. If Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were to check into the Plaza Hotel in New York City they would look around and write a report that said, "...what a bunch of barbarians, rude, self-absorbed, narcissistic and completely out of touch with spiritual matters." We are rude, crude and we are a disgrace to the original human race today, to be absolutely sure. We have the advantage of looking back on down upon them. And we do. What fools we really are! ~

13 And he spake unto Ephron in the audience of the people of the land, saying, But if thou wilt give it, I pray thee, hear me: I will give thee money for the field; take it of me, and I will bury my dead there.

14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying unto him,

15 My lord, hearken unto me: the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver; what is that betwixt me and thee? Bury therefore thy dead.

16 And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant.

17 And the field of Ephron, which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field, and the cave which was therein, and all the trees that were in the field, that were in all the borders round about, were made sure.

18 Unto Abraham for a possession in the presence of the children of Heth, before all that went in at the gate of his city.

19 And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan.

20 And the field, and the cave that is therein, were made sure unto Abraham for a possession of a burying place by the sons of Heth.

~ So, we end this very important leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God understanding why Isaac, Jacob and Joseph - who will die way down in Egypt – all wanted to be buried in the Promised Land. The mosque we spoke of previously in this report is considered the second or third most important mosque in Islam today. They have beautiful mosques all over the world, no question about that. They can be literally stunning to the eye. The most important mosque would be Mecca first - and either Hebron or Jerusalem is numbers two and three. It would be suicide to try to visit those places today for a true Christian.

In our next report, we will see the servant of Abraham sent to find a bride for Isaac in Mesopotamia. Chapter twenty-four is another one of the exquisite chapters in the Word of God. The story we shall see is altogether lovely. It's a love story that reveals God is very much interested in the person you marry. There are two institutions God has given to the human family: marriage and government. They are both universal and critical to our society.

The home is the backbone to any government, too, by the way. God knew that. We now know that when either is broken a nation will fall apart – every – single –time. It doesn't matter how rich that country is. The government must have authority to enforce its laws – and then do so. That's the purpose of them! Human life is sacred so we protect it; and without government that can't happen. Anarchy would ensue. God gave man these laws because He is interested in your love story, friends. It's wonderful when we REALLY allow God into our lives and begin to understand His Word properly, correctly and completely. Remember, the first miracle Jesus performed was at a wedding ~

