

6

A Spot for A Plot

Genesis 22-25

Read Genesis 22:20-25:34 before your group meets! (Okay, it's too late now. Don't panic. And DON'T try to read it all in your group, unless you're planning a loonnng meeting.)

The story of Abraham ends on a somber note... but there's still evidence of confidence in the promises of God, even in the fact of death. It's a great example of what faith is all about. Let's take a look.

Goodbye to Sarah (Ch 23)

Genesis 23 tells of the death of Abraham's wife Sarah.

- a) Where does Sarah die, and why are these details relevant?

- b) What is Abraham's view of his status in this place, and what's the Hittites' view?

- c) What does Ephron offer, and how does Abraham respond?

Why?

- d) Compare this with the account of the offer of the King of Sodom in Gen 14:21-24. Does this give a hint of what's going on?

The reality is, to bury his wife in a plot of ground in the promised land, Abraham has to buy it from its current owners. He's staking a claim in a land that is not yet his own but he sees it as vitally important to bury his beloved Sarah in a plot that's sure to become part of the land God promised. In fact, when Abraham himself dies, he still hasn't taken possession of the land.

Hello to Rebekah! (Ch 24)

- e) The long and repetitive account of the selection of a wife for Isaac, the son of promise, makes a simple point repeatedly. What is it? (eg 24:40, 24:50)



f) What connection do you see between the blessing on Rebekah in Gen 24:60 and the theme we've followed in these studies of Genesis 12-25?

Goodbye Abraham! (Ch 25:1-11)

Read the account of Abraham's final days.

g) How does verse 5 remind you of a theme we've traced in these studies?

h) What is the significance of Abraham's burial place?

i) Read Hebrews 11:8-16. Observe the many things we can learn from Abraham's faith.

The fact is, Abraham didn't see God's promises fulfilled in his own lifetime. Like Sarah, he is buried in the plot Abraham purchased as an advance “stake” in the promised land.

Where should our final hope rest?

How should that affect the way we live in this present life?

What practical differences would it make to your life if this focus was more prominent?

What are you “longing for”?