

**THE ORIGINS OF IT ALL!: A STUDY OF GENESIS**  
**XXV.) FAITH IN THE FUTURE**  
**GENESIS 22:20-23:20**

**Q: What are we to do when tragedy comes before God's promises?**

**I.) FAMILY TIES (22:20-24)**

**Q: What might be the significance of this genealogy?**

- Now that Abraham & Sarah have been refined and proved faithful and the child of Promise has been born and matured, it is time for attention to go to the next generation.
- The next step in the fulfillment of God's Great Promise involves not only Isaac, but his becoming a great nation himself. Therefore, the provision for his family and children must be looked upon in the next step in God's Great Plan.
- Abraham's brother, Nahor, still lived in Mesopotamia and they despite great distance physically and in God's calling, they stayed in touch as they could and maintained honor for their family ties.

**II.) DEATH INTRUDES (23:1--2)**

- The original recipients of God's Great Promise began to die without seeing it's fulfillment. Sarah first, and Abraham getting older and closer.
- The "mother" of the Promise has left the land of the living. Now what?
- Sure, she saw the fulfillment of the birth of Isaac, but she has not seen them settle in the Land God had promised to give them, nor that of becoming a great nation that would be a blessing to all nations.
- **What God wrong? Did He only close 'part' of the deal?**

**Q: How often have we experienced some kind of tragedy or even death and wondered if that would be the end of God's promises?**

- Sarah, after spending most of her life waiting for that which she most desired, died at the age of 127. She is the **ONLY** woman in all Scripture whose age is given at the time of death.
- **Hebrews 11:11-16**
- **1 Peter 3:5-6**

### III.) FAITH **FORTIFIES** (23:3-20)

**Q: What are the signs or evidences of a faith that has been fortified – even in the midst of tragedy?**

#### **A.) Planting The Seed of Faith (vv. 3-4)**

- Rather than take her back to their families and homeland for burial, Abraham chose to bury her in a foreign and strange country where he himself did not even own any land or have any physical ties.

**Q: Why?**

- As a testimony, built upon the foundation of his faith in God's promises, that this land would be their home in the near future and for generations to come.
- The burial in Canaan would testify to this both to his own family and entourage as well as to the people of Canaan.
- Therefore, the first and only plot of land that Abraham ever bought in Canaan was for his wife's grave.
- **“Here we stand,” he symbolically proclaimed “upon the solid rock of God's Promises!”**

#### **B.) An Honored Reputation (vv. 5-6)**

- Notice the Hittites refer to Abraham, a stranger seeking to buy land to establish roots in a their land, as “*lord*” and “*God's chosen one*” (“*mighty prince*,” “*prince of God*”).
- Clearly, Abraham had lived among them in such a way as to earn a high level of respect rarely afforded anyone, let alone a stranger and alien.
- **His reputation, too, was a down payment and investment of faith in God's Promises.**

#### **C.) A Humble Personage (vv. 7-12)**

- Twice (vv. 7, 12) Abraham “*bowed down to the people of the land*.”
- Though God Himself told Abraham that he was a “*chosen one*” and “*friend of God*”, and even though these were a pagan God-rejecting people, and even though he knew this was a people that his own seed would one day need to defeat and subjugate, he nevertheless treated them with respect and in humility.
- No one in the land of Canaan ever had reason to call or think of Abraham as “self-righteous.”
- **Can we say the same?**

## D.) God's Promises **Outlive** His People (vv. 13-20)

### **Q: What does this mean? For us?**

- God's promises are neither limited to nor exhausted in our lifetime
- Times of tragedy and death are our greatest opportunities to demonstrate our faith in God and hope in His life and blessings beyond the grave and beyond this world.
- The great mark of a great saint is faithful endurance and perseverance on matter what tragedies, disappointments, set-backs or obstacles may come before us.
- Even in the worst and most difficult of times, we need to live strong in the hope and character of Christ – especially at these times and before the unbelieving world!