

**A FIELD PURCHASED  
FOR LOVE**  
**Genesis 23**

**INTRODUCTION**

Since Genesis 12 we have followed Abraham and Sarah through thick and thin. We have come to know them pretty well. With Isaac's birth to these aged parents, their home has been filled with great joy. But years pass by, and in Genesis 23 we see the death of Sarah. Death of a loved one is so hard to face. Abraham will now have to purchase a burial site for his beloved wife. This chapter records the details for us. As we study Genesis 23, our focus will be on the significance of **A Field Purchased For Love**.

**DIGGING DEEPER**

Read Genesis 23 several times. Abraham's character will come forth as he seeks and negotiates for **A Field Purchased For Love**. At the end of our study, consider how this points to the value placed upon YOU by our Redeemer and how this should impact your life. *Selah*

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 23:1-5. Sarah dies, Abraham mourns. Having shared so much of life, they had become as one. Grief stricken, Abraham now must deal with the loss of his beloved wife. God has special compassion for those who lose a loved one, and wants to provide for them. *Psalm 146:9, Acts 6:1, 1 Timothy 5:3, James 1:27. Selah*

II. Genesis 23:6-8. Abraham's character – high, but also low. As he began to search out the location to bury Sarah, Abraham's character comes through. Note: 1) Abraham was well respected in the unbelieving community. Reputation must be preceded by character. Abraham's character revealed the person he truly was – a man of uprightness and integrity. 2) Abraham was a man of humility. He lowers himself to these Hittites he lives with, even though he doesn't agree with them on spiritual matters. *Proverbs 15:33, 16:18*. Our example is the Lord Jesus. See *Philippians 2:7. Amen?*

III. Genesis 23:9-13. Abraham pays a fair amount. Another note about his character: 3) Abraham pays the full price. Too often, Christians want cut rate prices, expecting a "deal" or discount. In Abraham's culture, negotiating for a lower price might have even been expected. But he pays the asking price, appreciating the value. *Job 31:6*

IV. Genesis 23:14-20. The purchase. Handling himself with modesty and sincerity, this sale is made in public – a formal, legal, and binding agreement. Properly surveyed and recorded, Abraham has assured ownership for generations to come. Abraham, Isaac, and even Jacob will eventually be buried with Sarah in this cave of the field of Machpelah. For the sum of 400 shekles of silver **he has purchased this field for love**.

It is interesting that silver completed this purchase. The purchaser has placed great value on what (or WHO) is being redeemed in the sale. Take time to research this truth. *Leviticus 25:25-28* records the law of kinsman-redeemer. Boaz and Ruth are a classic example. In *Jeremiah 32*, a seemingly worthless piece of land is purchased with silver to assure ownership in future years. *Zechariah 11:12* prophesies Judas' betrayal of Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, which was eventually used to purchase the potters field (*Matthew 27:3-10*). This all leads us to Jesus, and the price He paid for your redemption. Read *Matthew 13:4* and *1 Peter 1:18-19*. How great the Savior's love for us!

**CONSIDER .....** Jesus redeemed us from....

- The curse of the law – we no longer have to face God's just judgement for our sin.... *Galatians 3:13*
- The empty, fruitless human effort to justify ourselves before God .... *Psalm 45:5-9*
- The traditions of dead religion to be justified before God.... *Colossians 2:18-23*

How should we respond to this marvelous redemption Jesus has provided? Meditate on *Philippians 3* and press on, beloved!

**PRAY**

- Upcoming events: Prophecy Conference 1/20-21, Ladies Breakaway 2/10-11, Israel Trip 3/5-16.
- School of Ministry students, new daytime classes beginning, evening class with Billy Pauley.
- Piecemaker's Quilters fellowship, Widows of Faith fellowship, Home Groups.
- Prayer ministry – Pray that folks will be moved to join in the various prayer meetings that gather throughout the week.
- Local & regional outreaches – Pastor Kory Wells, Calvary Chapel North Country in Watertown, WZXX 103.5 Syracuse
- International missions (info in foyer) – Agape' Lifeline & the Irular project in India. Sam & Beena Gilbert.