

# *In the Beginning: Genesis 1 to 25*

## Week 6

**Monday, April 10th**

### **Genesis 23**

1When Sarah was 127 years old, 2she died at Kiriath-arba (now called Hebron) in the land of Canaan. There Abraham mourned and wept for her. 3Then, leaving her body, he went to the Hittite elders and said, 4"Here I am, a stranger in a foreign land, with no place to bury my wife. Please let me have a piece of land for a burial plot."

5The Hittites replied to Abraham, 6"Certainly, for you are an honored prince among us. It will be a privilege to have you choose the finest of our tombs so you can bury her there."

7Then Abraham bowed low before them and said, 8"Since this is how you feel, be so kind as to ask Ephron son of Zohar 9to let me have the cave of Machpelah, down at the end of his field. I want to pay the full price, of course, whatever is publicly agreed upon, so I may have a permanent burial place for my family."

10Ephron was sitting there among the others, and he answered Abraham as the others listened, speaking publicly before all the elders of the town. 11"No, sir," he said to Abraham, "please listen to me. I will give you the cave and the field. Here in the presence of my people, I give it to you. Go and bury your dead."

12Abraham bowed again to the people of the land, 13and he replied to Ephron as everyone listened. "No, listen to me," he insisted. "I will buy it from you. Let me pay the full price for the field so I can bury my dead there."

14"Well," Ephron answered, 15"the land is worth four hundred pieces of silver, but what is that between friends? Go ahead and bury your dead."

16So Abraham paid Ephron the amount he had suggested, four hundred pieces of silver, as was publicly agreed. 17He bought the plot of land belonging to Ephron at Machpelah, near Mamre. This included the field, the cave that was in it, and all the trees nearby.

18They became Abraham's permanent possession by the agreement made in the presence of the Hittite elders at the city gate. 19So Abraham buried Sarah there in Canaan, in the cave of Machpelah, near Mamre, which is at Hebron. 20The field and the cave were sold to Abraham by the Hittites as a permanent burial place.

### **Points of Interest:**

- 'When Sarah was 127 years old, she died'—we are now coming to the end of our story. Sarah and Abraham have both lived long lives, and they have seen God come through for them. Sarah has lived to see the child whom she never thought she would have grow into adulthood. She has lived a good, long life; and now she passes on.
- 'no place to bury my wife'—Abraham has now lived in Canaan for about 60 years, but he has been a wanderer that whole time. He has temporarily stopped in different places for periods of time, but he's never permanently settled anywhere or bought any land. He doesn't even have enough land for a burial plot for his wife.
- 'Please let me have a piece of land'—good land was scarce and valuable; it would be rare to sell land to anyone outside one's own family (*IVP Bible Background Commentary*). In an economy based on herding and agriculture, to sell some of one's land would permanently impair the family's future economic prospects. So, it's no small thing that Abraham is asking here.

It's usual to want to be buried with your ancestors; multiple generations would be buried in the same tomb (*IVP Bible Background Commentary*), but Abraham does not bring Sarah's body back to Haran or Ur. Instead, he starts a new burial plot, not where his ancestors have lived but where his descendants will live. He wants Sarah's body

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(and his body when he dies) to be in the land that God will give his heirs. He is staking his wife's burial spot on God's future completion of his promises.

- 'Certainly, for you are an honored prince among us'—Abraham is, as he describes himself, a stranger wandering in a foreign land. He has no land and no official standing in the place where he has been living. But, he has gained the respect of the people among whom he has been living for so long. Because of how he has lived his life, he's considered an honorary prince. So, the people are willing to do the favor he has asked.
- 'Let me pay the full price for the field'—it could be that Ephron is honestly trying to give Abraham a gift, but Abraham probably sees the possibility of future legal difficulties. To pay less than full price could open him or his heirs to lawsuits by Ephron's heirs (*IVP Bible Background Commentary*); they could claim that the land was rented, not bought.
- 'Abraham paid Ephron the amount he had suggested'—it would be customary for them to haggle until they came to a mutually agreeable price, which would be considered the full and fair price for the land; but Abraham simply accepts Ephron's initial bid. Perhaps he wants there to be absolutely no question that he has paid in full. It could also be that Abraham would rather be the more generous one in the transaction: God has given him enough riches that he can afford to pay top value to Ephron. When he rescued the people of Sodom from the kings of Mesopotamia, he accepted no reward; likewise, he accepts no discount here. He wants it to be clear that God alone is responsible for all of the wealth he has acquired.
- 'Abraham's permanent possession'—for Abraham this is like a small down payment on what God has promised him. God has told Abraham that he would give him the whole land. Near the end of his life, he gains the first small piece. He will have to trust God for the rest later.
- 'near Mamre'—we come back to the beginning. This is one of the earliest places Abraham and Sarah stopped in Canaan, and one of the first places they encountered God.

### **Taking it home:**

- *For you and your family:* Abraham makes his decisions about his wife's burial based on an expectation that God will fulfill the promises he has made to Abraham's family. What are some promises God has given you and your family? How would it affect your choices today if you were banking on those promises coming true in the future? How do you feel about the prospect of making your decisions in that way? Take a moment today to have a conversation with God about these things: ask him if he has any promises for you or your family; ask him for guidance on specific decisions you are making; tell him how you feel about making decisions based on the expectation that he will fulfill his promises; and listen to see if he has any responses to what you have said.
- *For our church:* Abraham enjoys a good reputation with the people who live around him, even with those who don't share his faith background. Pray for our church that we would enjoy similar favor with the people around us. Pray that God would help us to become the kind of people who attract that sort of reputation.
- *For our city:* Pray for business dealings in our city. Ask God to give us the same harmony, goodwill, and generosity in our business dealings with one another as Abraham and Ephron had.

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**Tuesday, April 11th**

**Genesis 24: 1-27**

1Abraham was now a very old man, and the LORD had blessed him in every way. 2One day Abraham said to the man in charge of his household, who was his oldest servant, 3"Swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not let my son marry one of these local Canaanite women. 4Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac."

5The servant asked, "But suppose I can't find a young woman who will travel so far from home? May I then take Isaac there to live among your relatives?"

6"No!" Abraham warned. "Be careful never to take my son there. 7For the LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and my native land, solemnly promised to give this land to my offspring. He will send his angel ahead of you, and he will see to it that you find a young woman there to be my son's wife. 8If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath. But under no circumstances are you to take my son there."

9So the servant took a solemn oath that he would follow Abraham's instructions. 10He loaded ten of Abraham's camels with gifts and set out, taking with him the best of everything his master owned. He traveled to Aram-naharaim and went to the village where Abraham's brother Nahor had settled. 11There the servant made the camels kneel down beside a well just outside the village. It was evening, and the women were coming out to draw water.

12"O LORD, God of my master," he prayed. "Give me success and show kindness to my master, Abraham. Help me to accomplish the purpose of my journey. 13See, here I am, standing beside this spring, and the young women of the village are coming out to draw water. 14This is my request. I will ask one of them for a drink. If she says, 'Yes, certainly, and I will water your camels, too!'--let her be the one you have appointed as Isaac's wife. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

15As he was still praying, a young woman named Rebekah arrived with a water jug on her shoulder. Her father was Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah. 16Now Rebekah was very beautiful, and she was a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again. 17Running over to her, the servant asked, "Please give me a drink."

18"Certainly, sir," she said, and she quickly lowered the jug for him to drink. 19When he had finished, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough!" 20So she quickly emptied the jug into the watering trough and ran down to the well again. She kept carrying water to the camels until they had finished drinking. 21The servant watched her in silence, wondering whether or not she was the one the LORD intended him to meet. 22Then at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he gave her a gold ring for her nose and two large gold bracelets for her wrists.

23"Whose daughter are you?" he asked. "Would your father have any room to put us up for the night?"

24"My father is Bethuel," she replied. "My grandparents are Nahor and Milcah. 25Yes, we have plenty of straw and food for the camels, and we have a room for guests."

26The man fell down to the ground and worshiped the LORD. 27"Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master, Abraham," he said. "The LORD has been so kind and faithful to Abraham, for he has led me straight to my master's relatives."

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### Points of Interest:

- 'Abraham was now a very old man'—Abraham too is approaching the end of his life. He is satisfied with the life God has given him, and now his concern is to pass his inheritance (the promises and purposes of God) on to the next generation.
- 'the man in charge of his household, who was his oldest servant'—this man has been with Abraham a long time; so Abraham can trust him with such an important mission as finding a wife for Isaac.
- 'Go instead to my homeland, to my relatives, and find a wife there for my son Isaac'—as we have seen in Genesis, marrying close relatives was normal and even preferable—it strengthened the links between people, and it consolidated wealth. Marrying cousins (and apparently even half-sisters, as in the case of Abraham and Sarah) was perfectly appropriate—Lot's daughters having children with him took it too far. It does seem a little strange that, having left his family so long ago, Abraham would place such high importance on Isaac marrying within the clan. Perhaps he wants to build upon his recent re-connection with his extended family, or perhaps he thinks that their common heritage makes it more likely that his relatives will understand and appreciate the life of wandering and life of faith he and his son have embarked upon.
- 'If she is unwilling to come back with you, then you are free from this oath'—Abraham wants two things for Isaac: that he continue to live in Canaan, the land of promise; and that he be married to someone from his clan. The servant wants to know what to do if he can only get one of the two. Abraham unequivocally decides that it is more important for Isaac to continue on the journey of faith he has begun by staying in the land to which God had led him.
- 'This is my request'—one thing this servant seems to have learned about God is that he will listen to very specific, personal requests.
- 'As he was still praying'—and indeed before he is even finished praying, the answer comes.
- 'Her father was Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham's brother'—since Abraham and Sarah had Isaac when they were so old, his brother's grandchildren would probably be about the same age as Isaac.
- 'The man fell down to the ground and worshiped the LORD'—I wonder if this is the first time the servant gets the chance to see his own prayers answered. He describes the LORD as 'the God of my master'; so perhaps he's observed Abraham's relationship with God over the years, but he hasn't had his own direct experience. Now, he gets to experience a supernatural answer to his own prayer. This answered prayer is a further sign of God's favor on Abraham, but also a sign that God has heard the servant and is willing to act on his behalf. The servant wants to be successful on this mission for Abraham, and God helps him fulfill this desire.

### Taking it home:

- *For you and your family:* I get the impression that Abraham's servant is even more excited about the fact that God gave him the ability to do something important for Abraham than he would have been about God answering a prayer for himself. There's something fun about giving someone else a great gift with God's money, as it were. Is there something you'd really like a friend to have? Pray that God would give you a supernatural ability to provide that gift for your friend.

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- *For our church:* Having specific prayers answered can be a very encouraging thing. Ask God for countless, specific answers to prayer in our midst. Particularly pray that God would be answering people's 40 Days of Faith prayers as those 40 days draw to a close.
- *For our city:* Abraham was not satisfied with experiencing God's abundance and goodness only for his own lifetime. He wanted to see the blessing last beyond his life into the next generation, and even grow in that next generation. Pray that God would give the people of our city a similar long-term perspective. Pray that more and more of us would have hopes for this city that last beyond our own lifetimes, and that God would provide ways for us to pass those dreams on to the next generation.

**Wednesday, April 12th**

**Genesis 24: 28-49**

28The young woman ran home to tell her family about all that had happened. 29Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban. 30When he saw the nose-ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard her story, he rushed out to the spring, where the man was still standing beside his camels. Laban said to him, 31 "Come and stay with us, you who are blessed by the LORD. Why do you stand here outside the village when we have a room all ready for you and a place prepared for the camels!"

32So the man went home with Laban, and Laban unloaded the camels, gave him straw to bed them down, fed them, and provided water for the camel drivers to wash their feet. 33Then supper was served. But Abraham's servant said, "I don't want to eat until I have told you why I have come."

"All right," Laban said, "tell us your mission."

34 "I am Abraham's servant," he explained. 35 "And the LORD has blessed my master richly; he has become a great man. The LORD has given him flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, a fortune in silver and gold, and many servants and camels and donkeys. 36 When Sarah, my master's wife, was very old, she gave birth to my master's son, and my master has given him everything he owns. 37 And my master made me swear that I would not let Isaac marry one of the local Canaanite women. 38 Instead, I was to come to his relatives here in this far-off land, to his father's home. I was told to bring back a young woman from here to marry his son.

39 " `But suppose I can't find a young woman willing to come back with me?' I asked him. 40 `You will,' he told me, `for the LORD, in whose presence I have walked, will send his angel with you and will make your mission successful. Yes, you must get a wife for my son from among my relatives, from my father's family. 41 But if you go to my relatives and they refuse to let her come, you will be free from your oath.'

42 "So this afternoon when I came to the spring I prayed this prayer: `O LORD, the God of my master, Abraham, if you are planning to make my mission a success, please guide me in a special way. 43 Here I am, standing beside this spring. I will say to some young woman who comes to draw water, "Please give me a drink of water!" 44 And she will reply, "Certainly! And I'll water your camels, too!" LORD, let her be the one you have selected to be the wife of my master's son.'

45 "Before I had finished praying these words, I saw Rebekah coming along with her water jug on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water and filled the jug. So I said to her, `Please give me a drink.' 46 She quickly lowered the jug from her shoulder so I could drink, and she said, `Certainly, sir, and I will water your camels, too!' And she

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did. 47When I asked her whose daughter she was, she told me, 'My father is Bethuel, the son of Nahor and his wife, Milcah.' So I gave her the ring and the bracelets.

48"Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master, Abraham, because he had led me along the right path to find a wife from the family of my master's relatives. 49So tell me--will you or won't you show true kindness to my master? When you tell me, then I'll know what my next step should be, whether to move this way or that."

### **Points of Interest:**

- 'When he saw the nose-ring and the bracelets'—I don't know about you, but I get the distinct impression that Laban is more impressed with the fact that the messenger is rich than that he is coming from Laban's long-lost uncle.
- 'I don't want to eat until I have told you why I have come'—to accept Laban's hospitality would have placed some obligation to return the favor on the servant. He only wants to put himself in that kind of position if he knows that it is going to lead to the completion of his mission. This servant does not want to waste his time. Charming, even though he has little time to waste, he's perfectly willing to spend the time to tell his story blow-by-blow and in great detail. The servant is very excited about what has happened to him.
- 'Certainly! And I'll water your camels, too!'—Rebekah's response to the servant seems doubly significant. First of all, it is the answer to the servant's prayer. Secondly, it shows something about her character. Camels can drink a lot of water, but Rebekah is willing to do the hard work of watering all ten of the servant's camels. This generosity toward a stranger shows that Rebekah has some of the same spirit as Abraham—she has a good chance of getting along with Abraham and Isaac.
- 'will you or won't you show true kindness'—the signs look good so far, but the servant wants to know definitively if he has come to the right place. He is essentially saying, 'You're not just playing with me, are you?'

### **Taking it home:**

- *For you and your family:* Abraham's servant was given very encouraging signs that God was directing him toward Bethuel's family. Nonetheless, he paused to make sure that this was indeed the answer to his prayers before plunging ahead. Do you feel as if there are signs that God is pointing you in a particular direction? It might be helpful to pause and make a final check before moving forward. What confirmations do you need from God or other people that the direction you are going is the right direction?
- *For our church:* Abraham's servant has had such a wonderful experience of being met by God that he simply couldn't stop talking about it. Pray for us as a church, that God would continuously be meeting all of us in the same way, and that we would respond with as much excitement.
- *For our city:* Pray for an outpouring of answered prayers across our city. Pray particularly that God would be answering the prayers of people who wouldn't usually think of themselves as the praying type.

### **Thursday, April 13th**

#### **Genesis 24: 50-67**

50Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The LORD has obviously brought you here, so what can we say? 51Here is Rebekah; take her and go. Yes, let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has directed."

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52At this reply, Abraham's servant bowed to the ground and worshiped the LORD. 53Then he brought out silver and gold jewelry and lovely clothing for Rebekah. He also gave valuable presents to her mother and brother. 54Then they had supper, and the servant and the men with him stayed there overnight. But early the next morning, he said, "Send me back to my master."

55 "But we want Rebekah to stay at least ten days," her brother and mother said. "Then she can go."

56But he said, "Don't hinder my return. The LORD has made my mission successful, and I want to report back to my master."

57 "Well," they said, "we'll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks." 58So they called Rebekah. "Are you willing to go with this man?" they asked her.

And she replied, "Yes, I will go."

59So they said good-bye to Rebekah and sent her away with Abraham's servant and his men. The woman who had been Rebekah's childhood nurse went along with her. 60They blessed her with this blessing as she parted:

"Our sister, may you become  
the mother of many millions!  
May your descendants overcome  
all their enemies."

61Then Rebekah and her servants mounted the camels and left with Abraham's servant.

62Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahairoi.

63One evening as he was taking a walk out in the fields, meditating, he looked up and saw the camels coming. 64When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted.

65 "Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?" she asked the servant.

And he replied, "It is my master." So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. 66Then the servant told Isaac the whole story.

67And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother's tent, and she became his wife. He loved her very much, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

### **Points of Interest:**

- 'Then Laban and Bethuel replied'—it's a little surprising that Laban would have so much to do with these negotiations with Bethuel still being alive. Perhaps his father is in retirement, with Laban running the family business, or perhaps Laban is just excited about those ten camels of gifts.
- 'The LORD has obviously brought you here'—Rebekah's family seem to be followers of the LORD as well. This may be one reason why Abraham so much wanted to find Isaac a wife from within his family. Laban and Bethuel recognize from the servant's story that God is at work here.
- 'Here is Rebekah; take her and go'—it was a father's prerogative to do marriage negotiations for his daughter.
- 'Don't hinder my return'—the servant remains focused on the completion of the mission. It might be that the servant has some reason to suspect that he would be made to wait indefinitely: when Isaac's son Jacob comes to court Laban's daughter, he ends up being delayed fourteen years—and even then he has to sneak away.
- "And she replied, 'Yes, I will go'" —Rebekah herself finally gets to make a choice in the matter, and she quickly and definitely chooses to go home immediately with the servant. It's a brave choice. She's a young woman, leaving her family for the first time to cross the desert with a stranger in order to marry a man she hasn't ever met and live

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in a place where she has never been. She does indeed seem to share a lot of the faith and bravery of Abraham. She takes her supernatural encounter with the servant as the same invitation to a life of faith, promise and blessing as Abraham received when he lived in Haran; and she too says, 'yes,' without looking back. She enthusiastically joins in on God's mission to go, to multiply, and to fill the earth with God's goodness and abundance.

- 'may you become the mother of many millions!'—her family too expects her to experience fantastic blessing as she goes.
- 'Then the servant told Isaac the whole story'—he is so excited that he just can't stop telling the story.
- 'Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother's tent'—Sarah's tent would have remained empty since her death. It's the tent of the matriarch of the family. By bringing her there, Isaac is recognizing her as the new matriarch.
- 'He loved her very much'—God is a good match-maker: Rebekah seems to fit well with Abraham's family; she is willing to go; and Isaac loves his new bride very much, even though it was an arranged marriage. Isaac's immediate and enthusiastic welcome reminds me a lot of Adam's response when he first sees Eve.
- 'she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother'—often in Genesis, we've seen people make a choice between going forward into the future or remaining stuck in the past. Rebekah helps Isaac make a move toward the future.

### **Taking it home:**

- *For you and your family:* Until mid-way through today's passage, Rebekah is carried along by the momentum of other people's actions. In the end, though, she has to make her own decision about whether or not she is going to embrace this thing that is happening as something good for her from God. Do you feel as if you have been carried along in some experiment of faith by someone else's momentum? If so, maybe this is a good time to figure out what you think and what you want. Or perhaps you tend to be the momentum-setter in your family. How can you create the right space for your spouse or your children to actively decide to join you?
- *For our church:* Pray for God's blessing on the marriages in our church. Pray for increased love, partnership, and excitement in each of our marriages. Pray for new marriages, that they would have the same sense of blessing surrounding them that Rebekah and Isaac's marriage did. And pray for those who've been married for some time, that they would experience a deepening of love for one another, as Abraham and Sarah did to the very end.
- *For our city:* Please pray for God's peace and comfort for everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

### **Friday, April 14th**

#### **Genesis 25**

1Now Abraham married again. Keturah was his new wife, 2and she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. 3Jokshan's two sons were Sheba and Dedan. Dedan's descendants were the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. 4Midian's sons were Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. These were all descendants of Abraham through Keturah.

5Abraham left everything he owned to his son Isaac. 6But before he died, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them off to the east, away from Isaac.

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7Abraham lived for 175 years, 8and he died at a ripe old age, joining his ancestors in death. 9His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite. 10This was the field Abraham had purchased from the Hittites, where he had buried his wife Sarah. 11After Abraham's death, God poured out rich blessings on Isaac, who settled near Beer-lahairoi in the Negev.

### Points of Interest:

- 'Now Abraham married again'—he lives for about 40 years after Sarah dies; so it's not completely inexplicable that we would have the time and the inclination to marry again. Keturah is described in verse 6 as a concubine. There were two levels of wife in Abraham's society: a full wife, and a concubine. The full wife and her children would have more rights and privileges than the concubine and her children. A man would only have one wife at a time, but could have more than one concubine; or he could have a wife and a concubine at the same time. This marriage custom seems to me to be an outworking of the curses in Genesis 3, which cause inequity between the man and the woman. It's definitely not how God created things to be: in Genesis chapter 2, we are told that marriage is supposed to be two becoming one. We've seen some problems in Abraham's family life caused by his departure from God's purpose for marriage; the problems get all the more severe later in the Bible, particularly in the lives of David and Solomon, later kings of God's people.
- 'These were all descendants of Abraham'—the sons of Keturah end up being the patriarchs of nations in their own right. Their descendants inhabit the desert to the east of Canaan. The Midianites particularly play a prominent role in the history of the descendants of Isaac: Moses' wife is a Midianite; Midianite merchants buy Isaac's grandson Joseph when his brothers sell him into slavery; and God often uses Midianite raiders to judge the Israelites once they inhabit Canaan after Moses' time.
- 'Abraham left everything he owned to his son Isaac'—Isaac is Abraham's sole heir; he inherits everything upon Abraham's death. However, before he dies, Abraham makes sure that all of his children are well taken care of, giving all of them gifts.
- 'sent them off to the east, away from Isaac'—Abraham is doing what he can to protect Isaac's inheritance, to treat his other sons generously, and to minimize competition and rivalry among his children. He does so by providing something for all of them, and then spreading them out. While his primary motivation is protecting Isaac's claim to the land of promise, it's worth noting that he does so in a way that fulfills God's command to multiply and fill the earth. Just like he went out from his father's house, he is sending all of his sons out. If they go out in faith, they can expect to find a good life where they go, and they would become carriers of God's goodness and abundance in all directions. Here, at the end of his life, we complete the picture of Abraham that we started at the beginning: he is the opposite of the people of Babel. Whereas the people of Babel tried their hardest to avoid being sent out by God, Abraham willingly goes himself, and he multiplies his choice by sending out all of his sons.
- 'he died at a ripe old age'—Abraham has experienced a rich, full life: he has seen amazing things; he has had a vibrant life with God; and God has provided him with abundant wealth, with children, with respect, and with satisfaction. There is no regret or dissatisfaction or incompleteness lingering as Abraham ends his life. He lived a good life, and he died satisfied.

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- 'His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah'—Ishmael and Isaac have had their difficulties, but they are able to come together to grieve and honor their father.
- 'After Abraham's death, God poured out rich blessings on Isaac'—Abraham provides Isaac with a substantial inheritance in terms of wealth, but the most significant thing Abraham passes on to Isaac is relationship with a God that will take better care of him than he could ever take of himself.

### **Taking it home:**

- *For you, your family, our church, and our city:* Abraham experiences the deep satisfaction of a life well-lived. He ends his days peaceful, satisfied, and confident that he has passed on a good inheritance to his children. Pray for all of us, that we would grow in peace, that God would bless us with a deep sense of well-being, that we would end our days having accomplished what God called us to do, and that we would have passed along to those who come after us an even greater confidence in God's goodness.