



## 23

- 1 Sarah's lifetime—the span of Sarah's life—came to one hundred and twenty-seven years.  
וַיְהִי־זֶה חַיֵּי שָׂרָה מֵאָה שָׁנָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים שָׁנֵי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה:
- 2 Sarah died in Kiriath-arba—now Hebron—in the land of Canaan; and Abraham proceeded to mourn for Sarah and to bewail her.  
וַתָּמָת שָׂרָה בְּקִרְיַת־אַרְבָּה הִוא תְּבֵרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיֵּבֵא אֲבִרְהָם לִסְפֹּד לְשָׂרָה וּלְבִכְתָּהּ:
- 3 Then Abraham rose from beside his dead, and spoke to the Hittites, saying,  
וַיָּקָם אֲבִרְהָם מֵעַל פָּנָי מִתּוֹ וַיְדַבֵּר אֶל־בְּנֵי־חֵת לֵאמֹר:
- 4 “I am a resident alien among you; sell me a burial site among you, that I may remove my dead for burial.”  
גִּרְיוֹתִישׁוֹב אֲנִכִּי עִמָּכֶם תָּנוּ לִי אֲחֻזָּת־לִבְרִי עִמָּכֶם וְאֶקְבְּרָהּ מִתּוֹ מִלְּפָנַי:
- 5 And the Hittites replied to Abraham, saying to him,  
וַיַּעֲנוּ בְנֵי־חֵת אֶת־אֲבִרְהָם לֵאמֹר לוֹ:
- 6 “Hear us, my lord: you are the elect of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places; none of us will withhold his burial place from you for burying your dead.”  
שָׁמְעֵנוּ ׀ אֲדֹנָי נְשִׂיא אֱלֹהִים אַתָּה בְּתוֹכֵנוּ בְּמִבְתָּר קְבֻלָּינוּ קִבֵּר אֶת־מֵתְךָ אִישׁ מִלָּנוּ אֶת־קִבְרֹו לֹא־יִכְלֶה מִמֶּךָ מִקִּבֵּר מִתְּךָ:
- 7 Thereupon Abraham bowed low to the landowning citizens, (landowning citizens Heb. ‘am ha-’are; lit. “people of the land.” See the Dictionary under ‘am.) the Hittites,  
וַיִּקָּם אֲבִרְהָם וַיִּשְׁתַּחוּ לְעַם־הָאָרֶץ לְבְנֵי־חֵת:
- 8 and he said to them, “If it is your wish that I remove my dead for burial, you must agree to intercede for me with Ephron son of Zohar.  
וַיְדַבֵּר אִתָּם לֵאמֹר אִם־יֵשׁ אֶת־נַפְשְׁכֶם לְקַבֵּר אֶת־מֵתִי מִלְּפָנַי שְׂמַעֲנוּ וּפְגַעֲוִילִי בְּעַפְרוֹן בֶּרֶץ־זֹהָר:
- 9 Let him sell me the cave of Machpelah that he owns, which is at the edge of his land. Let him sell it to me, at the full price, for a burial site in your midst.”  
וַיִּתְּוִילִי אֶת־מַעֲרַת הַמַּכְפֶּלֶה אֲשֶׁר־לוֹ אֲשֶׁר בְּקֶצֶה שְׂדֵהוּ בְּלֶסֶף מֵלֵא יִתְּנֶנָּה לִּי בְּתוֹכְכֶם לְאֲחֻזָּת־קִבֵּר:
- 10 Ephron was present among the Hittites; so Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, the assembly in his town's gate, (the assembly in his town's gate Lit. “all who entered the gate of his town.” So NJPS, with a note: “I.e., all his fellow townsmen.” Cf. 34.20; Prov. 31.23.) saying,  
וַעֲפְרוֹן יָשָׁב בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי־חֵת וַיַּעַן עַפְרוֹן הַחִתִּי אֶת־אֲבִרְהָם בְּאָזְנֵי בְנֵי־חֵת לֵכָל בָּאֵי שַׁעֲרֵי־עִירוֹ לֵאמֹר:
- 11 “No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field and I give you the cave that is in it; I give it to you in the presence of my people. Bury your dead.”  
לֹא־אֲדֹנָי שְׂמַעֲנִי הִשְׁקֵה נְתַתִּי לָךְ וְהַמַּעֲרָה אֲשֶׁר־בּוֹ לָךְ נְתַתִּיָּה לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי־עַמִּי נְתַתִּיָּה לָךְ קִבֵּר מִתְּךָ:
- 12 Then Abraham bowed low before the landowning citizens,  
וַיִּשְׁתַּחֲוֶה אֲבִרְהָם לִפְנֵי עַם הָאָרֶץ:

1 Abraham was now old, advanced in years, and הוה  
 2 And Abraham said to the senior servant of his  
 household, who had charge of all that he owned,  
 3 and I will make you swear by ה', the God of  
 heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not  
 take a wife for my son from the daughters of the  
 Canaanites among whom I dwell,  
 4 but will go to the land of my birth and get a wife  
 for my son Isaac.”  
 5 And the servant said to him, “What if the woman  
 does not consent to follow me to this land, shall  
 I then take your son back to the land from which  
 you came?”  
 6 Abraham answered him, “On no account must you take  
 my son back there!

## 24

13 and spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the  
 landowning citizens, saying, “If only you would  
 hear me out! Let me pay the price of the land;  
 accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.”  
 14 And Ephron replied to Abraham, saying to him,  
 15 “My lord, do hear me! A piece of land worth four  
 hundred shekels of silver—what is that between you  
 and me? Go and bury your dead.”  
 16 Abraham accepted Ephron’s terms. Abraham paid out  
 silver at the going merchants’ rate.  
 17 So Ephron’s land in Machpelah, near Mamre—the  
 field with its cave and all the trees anywhere  
 within the confines of that field—passed  
 18 to Abraham as his possession, in the presence of  
 the Hittites, of the assembly in his town’s gate.  
 19 And then Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave  
 of the field of Machpelah, facing Mamre—now  
 Hebron—in the land of Canaan.  
 20 Thus the field with its cave passed from the  
 Hittites to Abraham, as a burial site.

6 but to Abraham's sons by concubines Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and he sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the East.

7 This was the total span of Abraham's life: one hundred and seventy-five years.

8 And Abraham breathed his last, dying at a good ripe age, old and contented; and he was gathered to his kin. (kin (So NJPS.) See the Dictionary under "predecessors.")

9 His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre,

10 the field that Abraham had bought from the Hittites; there Abraham was buried, and Sarah his wife.

11 After the death of Abraham, God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac settled near Beer-lahai-roi.

12 This is the line of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's slave, bore to Abraham.

13 These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the first-born of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

15 Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedmah.

16 These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names by their villages and by their encampments: twelve chieftains of as many tribes.—

17 These were the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty-seven years; then he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his kin.—

18 They dwelt from Havilah, by Shur, which is close to Egypt, all the way to Asshur; they camped alongside all their kin.

ולבני הפילגשים אשר לאברהם נתן אברהם מתנת וישלחם מעל יצחק בנו בעונתו חי קדמה אל־ארץ קדם:

ואלה ימי שְׁנֵי־חַיֵּי אברהם אֲשֶׁר־חַי מאת שנה ושבעים שנה וחמש שנים:

ויגוע וימת אברהם בְּשִׁיבָה טובה וְקוֹן וְשָׁבַע וַיֵּאסֶף אֶל־עַמּוּיוֹ:

ויקברו אותו יצחק וישמעאל בְּלִיזוֹ אֶל־מַעְרַת הַמַּכְפֶּלֶה אֶל־שָׂרָה עַפְרָן בֶּרֶצְחוֹר הַחֹתִי אִשָּׁר עַל־פְּנֵי מִמְרָא:

השָׂרָה אֲשֶׁר־קָנָה אברהם מאת בְּנֵי־חַיֵּת שָׁמָּה קָבַר אברהם וְשָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ:

וַיְחִי אַחֲרָי מוֹת אברהם וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת־יִצְחָק בֵּנּוּ וַיֵּשֶׁב יִצְחָק עַם־בְּאֵר לַחֵי רֹאֵי:

ואלה תולדת ישמעאל בְּרֵאֲבֶרְהָם אִשָּׁר יָלְדָה הָגָר הַמִּצְרִית שְׁפָחַת שָׂרָה לְאֲבֶרְהָם:

ואלה שְׁמוֹת בְּנֵי יִשְׁמָעֵאל בְּשִׁמְתָם לְחוּלְדָתָם בְּכָר יִשְׁמָעֵאל נְבִיֹת וְקֶדָר וְאַדְבֵּאֵל וּמִבְשָׁם:

ומשמע ודומה ומשא:

חֲדָד וְתֵמָא יֶטוּר נָפִישׁ וְקֶדְמָה:

אלה הם בְּנֵי יִשְׁמָעֵאל וְאֵלֶּה שְׁמֵתָם בְּחֻצְרֵיהֶם וּבִטְוִירָתָם שְׁנֵים־עָשָׂר נְשִׂאִים לְאַמְתָּם:

ואלה שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי יִשְׁמָעֵאל מאת שנה ושלשים שנה ושבע שנים ויגוע וימת וַיֵּאסֶף אֶל־עַמּוּיוֹ:

וישְׁכְּנוּ מִחֻוִּילָה עַד־שׁוּר אֶשׁוּר עַל־פְּנֵי מִצְרַיִם בְּאֶרֶץ אַשּׁוּרָה עַל־פְּנֵי כְל־אֲחֵיו נָפֹל:

7 יהוה | אלהי השמים אשר לקחני מבית אבי ומארץ מולדתי ואשר הברילי ואשר נשבע־לי לאמר לְזַרְעֲךָ אֶתֶּן אֶת־הָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת הוא ישלח מלאכו לְפָנֶיךָ וְלִקְחוֹת אִשָּׁה לְבִנִי מִשָּׁם:

8 And if the woman does not consent to follow you, you shall then be clear of this oath to me; but do not take my son back there.

9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore to him as bidden. (as bidden Lit. "about this matter.")

10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and set out, taking with him all the bounty of his master; and he made his way to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor.

11 He made the camels kneel down by the well outside the city, at evening time, the time when women come out to draw water.

12 And he said, "O יהוה | God of my master Abraham's [house], grant me good fortune this day, and deal graciously with my master Abraham:

13 Here I stand by the spring as the daughters of the townspeople (townspeople Or "town's householders.") come out to draw water;

14 let the maiden to whom I say, 'Please, lower your jar that I may drink,' and who replies, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels'—let her be the one whom You have decreed for Your servant Isaac. Thereby shall I know that You have dealt graciously with my master."

15 He had scarcely finished speaking, when Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, the son of Milcah the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder.

16 The maiden was very beautiful—[and] a virgin, no man having known her. ([and] a virgin, no man having known her Or "a young woman whom no man had known.") She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up.

17 The servant ran toward her and said, "Please, let me sip a little water from your jar."

18 "Drink, my lord," she said, and she quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and let him drink.

ואם־לא תאבה תֵּאשֹׁה לְלֶכֶת אַחֲרָיְךָ וַיְגַלִּית מִשְׁבַּעְתִּי וְאֵת רַק אֶת־בְּנִי לֹא תִשָּׁב שָׁמָּה:

וישם הַעֲבָד אֶת־יָדוֹ תַּחַת יָרֵךְ אברהם אֲדִנּוֹ וַיִּשְׁבַּע לוֹ עַל־הַהֶבֶר הַזֶּה:

ויקח הַעֲבָד עֶשְׂרֵה גַמְלִים מִגְּמָלֵי אֲדִנּוֹ וַיֵּלֶךְ וְכָל־טוֹב אֲדִנּוֹ בִּידּוֹ וַיָּקָם וַיֵּלֶךְ אֶל־אָרָם נְהַרְאִים אֶל־עִיר נַחוּר:

ויבָרַךְ הַגְּמָלִים מִחוּץ לַעֵיַר אֶל־בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם לַעֵת עָרֵב לַעֵת צֹאת הַשָּׁאֲבֹת:

ויאמר | יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדִנִּי אֲבֶרְחָם הַקְּרֹהֵמָה לִפְנֵי הַיּוֹם וְעֲשֵׂה־יִחְסֵד עִם אֲדִנִּי אֲבֶרְחָם:

הִנֵּה אֲנִכִּי נֹצֵב עַל־עֵין הַמַּיִם וּבִנְוֹת אֲנָשִׁי הַעִיר יֵצֵאת לִשְׁאֹב מַיִם:

והִנֵּה הַנַּעֲלָה אֲשֶׁר אָמַר אֵלָיְךָ הַטִּינָה כְּדֹךְ וְאִשְׁתָּה וְאִמְרָה שְׁתֵּה וְגַם־גְּמָלֶיךָ אֲשָׁקָה אֹתָהּ הַלְחֹת לַעֲבָדְךָ לִיצְחָק וְכֵּה אֲלַע כִּי־עֲשִׂיתָ חֶסֶד עִם־אֲדִנִּי:

וַיְהִי־הוּא עָרֵם כְּלֵה לְדַבֵּר וְהִנֵּה רִבְקָה יֹצֵאת אִשָּׁר יָלְדָה לְבִתּוֹאֵל בְּרִמְלָה אִשֶּׁת נַחוּר אֲחִי אֲבֶרְחָם וְכֵּהָ עַל־שִׁכְמָהּ:

והַנַּעֲלָה טַבַּת מִרְאָה מֵאֵד בְּתוּלָה וְאִישׁ לֹא יָדָעָה וְתָדָר הַלְוִיָּהּ וְתִמְלָא כֵּהָ וְתַעֲלֵ:

וַיָּרֻץ הַעֲבָד לְקִרְאָתָהּ וַיֹּאמֶר הִנְמִינִינִי נָא מַעַט־מִמַּיִם מִכְּדָרְךָ:

וְתֹאמַר שְׁתֵּה אֲדִנִּי וְתִמְלֹךְ וְתוֹךְ כֵּהָ עַל־יָדָהּ וְתִשְׁקָהּ:



|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>וַיָּבֹא הָאִישׁ הַבְּרִיָּהּ וַיַּפְתָּח הַגְּמִלִים וַיִּתֵּן תְּבוֹן וּמִסְפּוּא לַגְּמִלִים וּמִים לִרְחֹץ רַגְלָיו וְהָגִיל הָאָנָשִׁים אֶשֶׁר אִתּוֹ:</p> <p>וַיִּישֶׁם [וַיִּישֶׁם] לִפְנֵיו לֵאמֹר לֹא אֵכֹל עַד אִם־דִּבַּרְתָּ דְּבָרִי וַיֹּאמֶר דְּבָרִי:</p> <p>וַיֹּאמֶר עֲבַד אֲבִרְהָם אֲנִכִּי:</p> <p>וַיְהִי־הָ בֶרֶךְ אֲתֵּי־אֲדָנִי מֵאֵד וַיִּגְדֵּל וַיַּתְּרֵלּוּ צֹאן וּבָקָר וְכֶסֶף וְחֶהָב וַעֲבָדָם וַשְּׂפּוֹתָם וּגְמִלִים וְחֹמְרִים:</p> <p>וַתֵּלֶד שָׂרָה אִשְׁתׁ אֲדָנִי בֶן לְאֲדָנִי אַחֲרֵי זְקֻנָּתָהּ וַיַּתְּרֵלּוּ אֶת־כָּל־אֲשֶׁר־לָהּ:</p> <p>וַיִּשְׁבַּעַנִּי אֲדָנִי לֵאמֹר לֹא־תִקַּח אִשָּׁה לְבְנִי מִבְּנוֹת הַכְּנַעֲנִי אֲשֶׁר אֲנִכִּי יֵשֵׁב בְּאַרְצָם:</p> <p>אִם־יֵלֵא אֶל־בֵּית־אֲבִי תֵלֶךְ וְאֶל־מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי וְלִקְחַת אִשָּׁה לְבְנִי:</p> <p>וַאֲמַר אֶל־אֲדָנִי אֵלַי לֹא־תֵלֶךְ הָאִשָּׁה אַחֲרָי:</p> <p>וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלַי יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־יְהַתְּחֵלְכִי לִפְנֵיו יִשְׁלַח מַלְאָכּוֹ אִתּוֹךְ וְהִצִּילְתָּ דִּרְכְּךָ וְלִקְחַת אִשָּׁה לְבְנִי מִמִּשְׁפַּחְתִּי וּמִבֵּית אֲבִי:</p> <p>אִן תִּנָּקֵה מֵאֲלֹתִי כִּי תְבוּא אֶל־מִשְׁפַּחְתִּי וְאִם־יֵלֵא יִתְּנוּ לָךְ וְהָיִיתָ נְקִי מֵאֲלֹתַי:</p> <p>וַאֲבֹא הַיּוֹם אֲלֵיהֶם וַיָּעִזּוּ וַאֲמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי אֲדָנִי אֲבִרְהָם אִם־יִשְׁרָעֵא מִצִּלָּתִּי דִּרְכִּי אֲשֶׁר אֲנִכִּי הֵלֶךְ עָלֶיהָ:</p> <p>הִנֵּה אֲנִכִּי נֹכַח עַל־עֵין הַמַּיִם וְהִנֵּה הַעֲלָמָה הִיצֵאתָ לִשְׂאֵב וְאִמְרַתִּי אֵלֶיהָ הִשְׁקִינִי־נָא מִעֵט־מַיִם מִכֶּהָךְ:</p> <p>וְאִמְרָה אֵלַי גַּם־אִתָּה שְׂתֵּה וְגַם לְגִמְלִיךָ וַאֲשָׁב הוּא הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר־הָכִיתִי יְהוָה לְבָרְאֲדָנִי:</p> | <p>32 So the man entered the house, and the camels were unloaded. The camels were given straw and feed, and water was brought to bathe his feet and the feet of the entourage (entourage Lit. "participants"; trad. "men." See Dictionary under 'ish.) under him.</p> <p>33 But when food was set before him, he said, "I will not eat until I have told my tale." He said, "Speak, then."</p> <p>34 "I am Abraham's servant," he began.</p> <p>35 "The Lord has greatly blessed my master, who has become rich—giving him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and asses.</p> <p>36 And Sarah, my master's wife, bore my master a son in her old age, and he has assigned to him everything he owns.</p> <p>37 Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I dwell;</p> <p>38 but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'</p> <p>39 And I said to my master, 'What if the woman does not follow me?'</p> <p>40 He replied to me, 'The Lord, whose ways I have followed, will send a messenger with you and make your errand successful; and you will get a wife for my son from my kindred, from my father's house.</p> <p>41 Thus only shall you be freed from my adjuration: if, when you come to my kindred, they refuse you—only then shall you be freed from my adjuration.'</p> <p>42 "I came today to the spring, and I said: 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham's [house], if You would indeed grant success to the errand on which I am engaged!</p> <p>43 As I stand by the spring of water, let the young woman who comes out to draw and to whom I say, "Please, let me drink a little water from your jar,"</p> <p>44 and who answers, "You may drink, and I will also draw for your camels"—let her be the wife whom I have decreed for my master's son.'</p> | <p>45 I had scarcely finished praying in my heart, when Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder, and went down to the spring and drew. And I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.'</p> <p>46 She quickly lowered her jar and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels.</p> <p>47 I inquired of her, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, son of Nahor, whom Milcah bore to him.' And I put the ring on her nose and the bands on her arms.</p> <p>48 Then I bowed low in homage to the Lord and blessed the God of my master Abraham's [house], who led me on the right way to get the daughter of my master's brother for his son.</p> <p>49 And now, if you mean to treat my master with true kindness, tell me; and if not, tell me also, that I may turn right or left."</p> <p>50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered, "The matter was decreed by the Lord; we cannot speak to you bad or good.</p> <p>51 Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be a wife to your master's son, as the Lord has spoken."</p> <p>52 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed low to the ground before the Lord.</p> <p>53 The servant brought out objects of silver and gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; and he gave presents to her brother and her mother.</p> <p>54 Then he and the entourage under him ate and drank, and they spent the night. When they arose next morning, he said, "Give me leave to go to my master."</p> <p>55 But her brother and her mother said, "Let the maiden remain with us some ten days; (some ten days Lit. "days or ten.") then you may go."</p> <p>56 He said to them, "Do not delay me, now that the Lord has made my errand successful. Give me leave that I may go to my master."</p> <p>57 And they said, "Let us call the girl and ask for her reply."</p> <p>58 They called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man (man See note at v. 21.) ?" And she said, "I will."</p> |
|---|---|--|