

Read Genesis 23:1-9

**1** Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old.

**2** She died at Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her.

**3** Then Abraham rose from beside his dead wife and spoke to the Hittites. He said,

**4** "I am a foreigner and stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site here so I can bury my dead."

**5** The Hittites replied to Abraham,

**6** "Sir, listen to us. You are a mighty prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will refuse you his tomb for burying your dead."

**7** Then Abraham rose and bowed down before the people of the land, the Hittites.

**8** He said to them, "If you are willing to let me bury my dead, then listen to me and intercede with Ephron son of Zohar on my behalf

**9** so he will sell me the cave of Machpelah, which belongs to him and is at the end of his field. Ask him to sell it to me for the full price as a burial site among you."

**How old was Sarah when she died (v. 1)?** 127

**What did Abraham do (vv. 2-3)?** He mourned for Sarah and cried over her. Then He went to speak to the Hittites who lived in that area.

**What did Abraham want from the Hittites (v. 4)?** A place to bury Sarah.

**How did the Hittites answer when Abraham asked to buy some land from them to bury Sarah (v. 6)?** They addressed him as Sir and a Mighty Prince. They must have respected Abraham and thought highly of him. They said He could bury Sarah in whatever tomb of theirs he wanted to.

**How did Abraham address the Hittites (v. 7)?** He bowed down before them.

**Why did Abraham bow down before them?** To show mutual respect. He wanted to maintain a good relationship and a good witness with the Hittites since he lived in their land.

**What did Abraham ask the Hittites to do (v. 8)?** Talk to Ephron for me.

**Why did Abraham want them to intercede with Ephron son of Zoar (v. 9)?** So he would sell Abraham his cave to bury Sarah.

**How much did Abraham want to pay for the cave of Machpelah?** The full price. Whatever Ephron said it was worth.

**What does that tell us about Abraham?** He was wise. He didn't want to take advantage of Ephron's generosity and he didn't want to owe money to an unbeliever. He wanted to maintain an honorable witness to the Hittites. He was a man of character.

**Abraham's descendants made the cave in Ephron's field the family cemetery. Who else was eventually buried at Machpelah?** Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, and Jacob (Genesis 49:29-31; 50:12-13). Only Rachel (Jacob's wife) was not buried there (Genesis 35:19).