

Read Genesis 23:10-20

10 Ephron the Hittite was sitting among his people and he replied to Abraham in the hearing of all the Hittites who had come to the gate of his city.

11 “No, my lord,” he said. “Listen to 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.”

12 Again Abraham bowed down before the people of the land

13 and he said to Ephron in their hearing, “Listen to me, if you will. I will pay the price of the field. Accept it from me so I can bury my dead there.”

14 Ephron answered Abraham,

15 “Listen to me, my lord; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver, but what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.”

16 Abraham agreed to Ephron’s terms and weighed out for him the price he had named in the hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weight current among the merchants.

17 So Ephron’s field in Machpelah near Mamre—both the field and the cave in it, and all the trees within the borders of the field—was deeded

18 to Abraham as his property in the presence of all the Hittites who had come to the gate of the city.

19 Afterward Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre (which is at Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

20 So the field and the cave in it were deeded to Abraham by the Hittites as a burial site.

What did Ephron say when he was listening and heard Abram’s request (vv. 11-12)? I will give you my field and my cave so you can bury your wife Sarah.

What did Abraham say to Ephron (v. 13)? You don’t have to give it to me. I will pay you for it.

What did Ephron say to Abraham (v. 15)? The land is worth a lot of money (400 shekels of silver), but that doesn’t matter. Just go ahead and bury your wife.

How did Abraham respond to Ephron’s offer (v. 16)? He insisted on paying Ephron what the land was worth. And he gave Ephron 400 shekels of silver. And the property was his and he buried Sarah. This chapter describes the type of bargaining that is so typical in Eastern lands.

That was a lot of money. Why didn’t Abraham bargain with Ephron? He didn’t want to damage his reputation or relationship with Hittites. He was living in their land.

God gave the Promised Land to Abraham (Genesis 15:17-20). Why did Abraham have to buy something that belonged to him? Actually, God had promised He would give to him but he had not taken legal possession of it. **When would he take possession of it?** Abraham never actually took possession of the Promised Land. **Who did?** Joshua, when he led the Israelites across the Jordan and into the Promised Land.