

The Death of Sarah (2029 BC)

Genesis 23

1 And Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; *these were* the years of the life of Sarah.

2 And Sarah died in Kiriath Arba; that *is* Hebron, in the land of Canaan.

3 And Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. And Abraham rose up from his dead, and he spoke to the Hittites *and* said,

4 “I *am* a stranger and an alien among you; give to me my own burial site among you so that I may bury my dead from before me.”

5 And the Hittites answered Abraham *and* said to him,

6 “Hear us, my lord, you *are* a mighty prince in our midst. Bury your dead in the choicest of our burial sites. None of us will withhold his burial site from you *for* burying your dead.”

7 And Abraham rose up and bowed to the people of the land, to the Hittites.

8 And he spoke with them, saying, “If you are willing *that* I bury my dead from before me, hear me and intercede for me with Ephron the son of Zohar,

9 that he may sell to me the cave of Machpelah which belongs to him, which *is* at the end of his field. At full value let him sell *it* to me in your midst as a burial site.”

10 Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites. And Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites with respect to all *who were* entering the gate of his city, *and* said,

11 “No, my lord, hear me. I give you the field and the cave which *is* in it, I *also* give it to you in the sight of the children of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.”

12 And Abraham bowed before the people of the land.

13 And he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, “If only you will hear me—I give the price of the field. Take *it* from me that I may bury my dead there.”

14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,

15 “My lord, hear me. A *piece of* land *worth* four hundred shekels of silver—what *is* that between me and you? Bury your dead.”

16 Then Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels of silver at the merchants’ current rate.

17 So the field of Ephron which *was* in the Machpelah, which *was* near Mamre—the field and the cave which *was* in it, with all the trees that *were* in the field, which *were* within all its surrounding boundaries—passed

18 to Abraham as a property in the presence of the Hittites, with respect to all *who were* entering the gate of his city.

19 And thus afterward Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah near Mamre; that *is* Hebron, in the land of Canaan.

20 And the field and the cave which *was* in it passed to Abraham as a burial site from the Hittites.

A Wife for Isaac (2026 BC)

Genesis 24

Abraham’s Charge to His Servant

1 Now Abraham *was* old, advanced in age, and Yahweh had blessed Abraham in everything.

2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all he had, “Please put your hand under my thigh

3 that I may make you swear by Yahweh, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose midst I am dwelling,

4 but that you will go to my land and to my family, and take a wife for my son, for Isaac.”

5 And the servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land—must I then return your son to the land from whence you came?”

6 Abraham said to him, “You must take care that you do not return my son there.

7 Yahweh, the God of heaven who took me from the house of my father and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, ‘to your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

8 And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you shall be released from this oath of mine—only you must not return my son there.”

9 Then the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and he swore to him concerning this matter.

The Servant’s Prayer

10 And the servant took ten camels from his master’s camels, and he went with all *kinds of* his master’s good things in his hand. And he arose and went to Aram-Naharaim, to the city of Nahor.

11 And he made the camels kneel outside the city at the well of water, at the time of evening, toward the time *the women* went out to draw water.

12 And he said, “O Yahweh, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show loyal love to my master Abraham.

13 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are going out to draw water.

14 And let it be *that* the girl to whom I shall say, 'Please, offer your jar that I may drink' and *who* says, 'Drink—and I will also water your camels,' she *is the one* you have chosen for your servant, for Isaac. By her I will know that you have shown loyal love to my master."

God's Answer

15 And it happened *that* before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah—who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, the brother of Abraham—came out, and her jar *was* on her shoulder.

16 Now the girl *was* very pleasing in appearance. *She was* a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up.

17 And the servant ran to meet her. And he said, "Please, let me drink a little of the water from your jar."

18 And she said, "Drink, my lord." And she quickly lowered her jar in her hand and gave him a drink.

19 When she finished giving him a drink she said, "I will also draw water for your camels until they finish drinking."

20 And she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water. And she drew water for all his camels.

21 And the man *was* gazing at her silently to know *if* Yahweh had made his journey successful or not.

22 And it happened *that* as the camels finished drinking the man took a gold ring of a half shekel in weight and two bracelets for her arms, ten shekels in weight,

23 and said, "Please tell me, whose daughter *are* you? Is there a place *at* the house of your father for us to spend the night?"

24 And she said to him, "I *am* the daughter of Bethuel, son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor."

25 Then she said to him, "We have both straw and fodder in abundance, as well as a place to spend the night."

26 And the man knelt down and worshiped Yahweh.

27 And he said, "Blessed *be* Yahweh, God of my master Abraham, who has not withheld his loyal love and his faithfulness from my master. I *was* on the way *and* Yahweh led me *to* the house of my master's brother."

28 Then the girl ran and reported these things to the household of her mother.

Rebekah's Brother Laban and Her Father Bethuel

29 Now Rebekah had a brother, and his name *was* Laban. And Laban ran out to the man toward the spring.

30 And when he saw the ring and the bracelets on the arms of his sister and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, *who* said, "Thus the man spoke to me," he went to the man. And behold, *he was* standing with the camels at the spring.

31 And he said, "Come, O blessed *one* of Yahweh. Why do you stand outside? Now I have prepared the house and a place for the camels."

32 And the man came to the house and unloaded the camels. And he gave straw and fodder to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who *were* with him.

33 And food was placed before him to eat. And he said, "I will not eat until I have told my errand." And he said, "Speak."

34 And he said, "I *am* the servant of Abraham.

35 Now Yahweh has blessed my master exceedingly, and he has become great. He has given to him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male slaves and female slaves, and camels and donkeys.

36 And Sarah, the wife of my master, has borne a son to my master after her old age. And he has given to him all that he has.

37 And my master made me swear, saying, 'Do not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites in whose land I am living.

38 But you shall go to the house of my father, and to my family, and you shall take a wife for my son.'

39 And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.'

40 And he said to me, 'Yahweh, before whom I have walked, shall send his angel with you and will make your journey successful.

And you shall take a wife for my son from my family, and from the house of my father.

41 Then you shall be released from my oath, when you come to my family. And if they will not give *a woman* to you, then you will be released from my oath.'

42 Then today I came to the spring, and I said, 'O Yahweh, God of my master Abraham, if you would please make my journey successful, upon which I am going.

43 Behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let it be *that* the young woman who comes out to draw water and to whom I say, "Please give me a little water to drink from your jar,"

44 let her say to me, "Drink; I will also draw water for your camels," she *is* the woman whom Yahweh has appointed for the son of my master.'

45 I had not yet finished speaking to myself when, behold, Rebekah *was* coming out with her jar on her shoulder. And she went down to the spring and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.'

46 And she hastened and let down her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will give a drink to your camels also.' Then I drank and she gave a drink to the camels also.

47 Then I asked her and said, '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 bracelets on her arms.

48 And I knelt down and worshiped Yahweh, and I praised Yahweh, the God of my master Abraham, who led me on the right way, to take the daughter of the brother of my master for his son.

49 So now, if you are going to deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, so that I may turn to *the* right or to *the* left.”

Bethuel and Laban Agree to Give Rebekah in Marriage

50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered, and they said, “The matter has gone out from Yahweh; we are not able to speak bad or good to you.

51 Here *is* Rebekah before you. Take *her* and go; let her be a wife for the son of your master as Yahweh has spoken.”

52 And it happened *that* when the servant of Abraham heard their words he bowed down to the ground to Yahweh.

53 And the servant brought out silver jewelry and gold jewelry, and garments, and he gave *them* to Rebekah. And he gave precious gifts to her brother and to her mother.

54 And he and the men who *were* with him ate and drank, and they spent the night. And they got up in the morning, and he said, “Let me go to my master.”

55 And her brother and her mother said, “Let the girl remain with us ten days *or so*; after *that* she may go.”

56 And he said to them, “Do not delay me. Now, Yahweh has made my journey successful. Let me go. I must go to my master.”

Rebekah Agrees to Marry Isaac

57 And they said, “Let us call the girl and ask her opinion.”

58 And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” And she said, “I will go.”

59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and the servant of Abraham and his men.

60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “You *are* our sister; may you become countless thousands; and may your offspring take possession of the gate of his enemies.”

The Journey Home

61 And Rebekah and her maidservants arose, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. And the servant took Rebekah and left.

62 Now Isaac *was* coming from the direction of Beer-Lahai-Roi. And he *was* living in the land of the Negev.

63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field early in the evening, and he lifted up his eyes and saw—behold, camels were coming.

64 And Rebekah lifted up her eyes and saw Isaac. And she got down from the camel.

65 And she said to the servant, “Who *is* this man walking around in the field to meet us?” And the servant said, “That *is* my master.” And she took her veil and covered herself.

66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

67 And Isaac brought her to the tent of Sarah his mother. And he took Rebekah, and she became his wife. And Isaac loved her and was comforted after *the death* of his mother.

Abraham Marries Keturah—Origin of the Midianites (c. 2020 BC)

Genesis 25:1–6

1 Now Abraham again took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah.

2 And she bore to him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

3 And Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim.

4 And the sons of Midian *were* Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abidah, and Eldaah. All of these *were* the children of Keturah.

5 And Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.

6 But to the sons of Abraham’s concubines Abraham gave gifts. And while he *was* still living he sent them away eastward, *away* from his son Isaac, to the land of the east.

Toledot of Ishmael (c. 2050–1900 BC)

Genesis 25:12–16

12 Now these *are* the generations of Ishmael, the son of Abraham, that Hagar the Egyptian, the maidservant of Sarah, bore to Abraham.

13 And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names according to their family records. The firstborn of Ishmael *was* Nebaioth, then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

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

16 These *are* the sons of Ishmael, and these *are* their names by their villages and by their encampments—12 leaders according to

their tribes.

Toledot of Isaac (2006 BC)

Genesis 25:19–26

19 Now these *are* the generations of Isaac, the son of Abraham. Abraham fathered Isaac,

20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-Aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, as his wife.

21 And Isaac prayed to Yahweh on behalf of his wife, for she *was* barren. And Yahweh responded to his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

22 And the children in her womb jostled each other, and she said, “If it is going to be like this, why be pregnant?” And she went to inquire of Yahweh.

23 And Yahweh said to her, “Two nations *are* in your womb, and two peoples from birth shall be divided. And one people shall be stronger than the other. And *the* elder shall serve *the* younger.” [[Rom 9:12](#)]

24 And when her days to give birth were completed, then—behold—twins *were* in her womb.

25 And the first came out red, all his body *was* like a hairy coat, so they called his name Esau.

26 And afterward his brother came out, and his hand grasped the heel of Esau, so his name was called Jacob. And Isaac was sixty years old at their birth.

The Death of Abraham (1991 BC)

Genesis 25:7–11

7 Now these *are* the days of the years of the life of Abraham: one hundred and seventy-five years. [[Heb 11:13–16](#)]

8 And Abraham passed away and died in a good old age, old and full of years. And he was gathered to his people.

9 And Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron, son of Zohar the Hittite, that *was* east of Mamre,

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

11 And it happened *that* after the death of Abraham God blessed Isaac his son, and Isaac settled at Beer-Lahai-Roi.

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