



#5 Chayei Sarah Genesis 23:1 to 25:18
Torah Study
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Names

Hevron – Hebron

Kefa – Peter

Messiah – English for Mashiach; anointed one; Christ in the Greek means to be smudged – anointed

Moshe – Moses

Rivkah – Rebecca

Shaul – Paul

Shlomo – Solomon

Yeshua – Jesus' real name

Yĕhōvāh – God's real name forever (Exodus 3:15)

Yitz'chak – Isaac

Yochanan – John

Terms

Chayei Sarah – 5th Torah portion

Haftarah – reading from the prophets

Tanakh – Old Testament portion of Bible

Torah – 1st 5 books of the Bible

Torah portion – there are 54 portions of the Torah

Chayei Sarah means, "life of Sarah." In this portion, Sarah dies at the age of 127 and Abraham asks to buy the cave of Makhpelah in Hevron to bury her there. Abraham pays Efron 400 silver shekels for the cave. It is evident that he finds this cave important; perhaps its past connections were meaningful to him. It was supposedly where Adam and Eve were buried.

Abraham says he is a sojourner and a foreigner. He is an alien living among them. He asks to purchase a burial site in Genesis 23:4 NKJV, "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you." This is something that believers in the true God have been able to turn around and attach special meaning to. As we've talked about in the past, Abraham crossed over from the East where he was a pagan. The word Hebrew was given to him by the people in Canaan. Being Hebrew essentially means "crossed over" from the pagan East. We are commanded to confess this around the time of the Passover. We say that we are pagan Arameans on the day of first fruits which is right after Passover (Deuteronomy 26:5-10). I remember my dad saying this when I was little; we are what!?

We do this out of humility and we recognize our roots. God has made us His people; we have so much to be thankful for. Like I have said in past teachings, the story of Abraham was important in Jewish culture. Gentiles often don't understand this. They focus on one section of the Gospels where the leaders of Yeshua's times identify with Abraham and then these misguided teachers say how messed up the Jews were. They focus on a few people who were thinking wrong and don't see the obvious connections in the New Testament portion about this important topic. After talking about Abraham, in the book of Hebrews 11:13-16 NKJV says:

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that

country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

The Jews properly came up with the understanding that we are no longer pagan foreigners, but we are now strangers or foreigners to this pagan world; we look forward to a new heaven and earth where we all do what is right. 2 Peter 3:13 NKJV says, "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." It will be a wonderful and amazing time! Isaiah 64:3, 4 NKJV, "No one has ever heard, no ear perceived, no eye seen, any God but you. You work for him who waits for you. ... If we keep your ancient ways, we will be saved." God's work is beyond our ability to comprehend! If people want to be saved, it says we must keep God's ancient ways. So the people who say that the Bible is old fashioned are wrong.

*The people who say we don't have
to follow God's commandments are wrong.*

Kefa writes to those who live outside of Jewish society and says, "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God;" 1 Peter 2:11-12 NKJV. "Sojourners" most certainly would have resonated with them. They were strangers even as Abraham was a stranger; and instead of living a life as a pagan evildoer by not keeping God's commandments, they were to keep God's commandments (good works refers to keeping God's commandments). As a people who are on a pilgrimage like Abraham, they were to seek the future kingdom that God has prepared for them. If they take the right path and keep God's commandments, their walk culminates in the future kingdom of God.

Take some time to think this through. We are grateful that we are no longer pagans who have crossed over from the East. We are now those who will cross over someday into a different world just as our father Abraham. Therefore, we are children of Abraham by faith. Probably other scriptures come to mind as well. You can begin plugging them into this understanding the Jews had. The Gentiles were no longer strangers and foreigners. Have fun with this instead of making up random studies on numbers and letters as some do. Perhaps some of their studies are good applications. Yeshua said they were mostly just diversions that were off track (John 5:39).

*Some were so off track with reading into the scriptures
that they didn't know the Messiah was here!*

Continuing on with the portion; Abraham then sends his servant to find a wife for Yitz'chak in Nachor's city in Aram-Naharayim (Mesopotamia). He does this because he doesn't want Yitz'chak to marry an unbeliever from the land of Canaan. Abraham says that God would send His angel before his servant. When his servant gets to the city it is evening and it was time

for the women to draw water. Abraham's servant prays and asks God for a sign that the woman whom he asks water from will say yes and also offer to water his camels. Before he could finish asking God, Rivkah the daughter of Nachor came.

This is not just a funny story at the well, but a recording of God orchestrating events to make His will known. Abraham's servant then asks for a drink of water and she complies and also offers to water his camels. He asked if they had room to stay and she said that they did. When he arrives at the home of Lavan, Rivkah's brother greets Abraham's servant in the name of yud-hey-vav-hey, (God's real name, Yě-hō-váh¹ – יהוה).

Yě-hō-váh, "This is My name forever" Exodus 3:15 NKJV

Before Abraham's servant eats, he explains why he is there and the events that God had orchestrated to bring them together. He lets them know why he is there and asks them if he needs to look elsewhere for a wife for Yitz'chak. They recognize that God has brought them together and he was able to return right away with Rivkah even though they asked him to stay. Rivkah and Yitz'chak end up seeing each other in a field when Rivkah was almost back. Yitz'chak then takes Rivkah as his wife. Abraham has another wife named Keturah after Sarah and she has six sons before Abraham dies at the age of 175, Yitz'chak inherits Abrahams possessions. The descendants of Yishmael are given at the end of this portion; he dies at the age of 137.

This portion records the deaths of both Abraham and Sarah. The Jewish writings say that the cave of Makhpelah that Abraham bought for his family's burial is where Adam and Eve were buried. In this portion, the highlight of this portion is when God orchestrates the events to bring Rivkah back as Yitz'chak's wife. Abraham sends his servant trusting God that his servant will bring back a wife for Yitz'chak. Then God works out the details.

We see events like these happening to the prophets in the Tanakh and they also occurred frequently to Yeshua. Yeshua's disciples experienced miraculous events as they followed Yeshua wherever He went. In the case of Abraham's servant and also for Rivkah's family, it was apparent to them that the LORD - Yě-hō-váh, יהוה, orchestrated the events to bring back Rivkah as Yitz'chak's wife. After Yeshua ascended to heaven, his talmidim recalled many of the events they witnessed and saw how God had orchestrated the events to show them that Yeshua is indeed the Messiah. It should also be evidence to us that God is in control. I have witnessed events that were set up by God and they are very exciting.

Woe to him who strives with his Maker! ... Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Isaiah 45:9 NKJV.

The Haftarah for Chayei Sarah is 1 Kings 1:1-31. This reading takes place just before the death of King David. King David is sick and one of his sons began to claim that he was king.

¹ The name for God is Yě-hō-váh as seen in over 2,363 manuscripts to date. Only once as Yehoveh; **never as Yahweh**. The name Yahweh was just made up by a Gentile theologian.

Bat-Sheva asks King David if he hadn't told her that Shlomo would be king. Natan also comes in and asks King David about Adoniyah's claim to the throne. King David then orders Shlomo to be anointed king.

In the Torah portion we see Abraham sticking to what God told him to do about Yitz'chak being the heir of promise. Although men may think that they are the ones who are in power and they are the ones that know how to procure power, it was God who ultimately chose the line of people who would bless the earth and who would be the Messiah, namely Yeshua our Messiah. Abraham gave his life to serve the true God and God gave him a blessed life; his life was not without trials, but he stood strong and through Abraham, the entire world has been blessed tremendously. We also can be a people who give our lives to God and bless this world. Never minimize your contribution as a follower of the creator God and our Messiah Yeshua.