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So Abram Went to Live Near the Great Trees of Mamre at Hebron 13: 18

So Abram went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron DIG: Why did Abram continue to build altars wherever he went in the Land? What plot of land was near the great trees of Mamre? How was it significant to his immediate family and to his descendants (see **23:17-19)?**

REFLECT: Can God call you His friend? Why or why not? What does it mean to be a friend? There is a give and take relationship among friends. As a friend, what can you give to the LORD? What could ADONAI give to you?

Still living a nomadic lifestyle, **Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron (14:13, 18:1, 23:17** and **19, 25:9)**, twenty-two miles south of Jerusalem**.** These **trees** grow to about twenty to twenty-five feet high, have a thick trunk, heavy branches and are among the best shade **trees** in Canaan. Like **the great tree of Moreh at Schechem (12:6)**, this was also a center of pagan worship, this time outside the city of **Hebron**. The place was named **Mamre** after its original owner, **Mamre the Ammorite**, who we will meet

in **14:13**. Later, from this very place, **Abraham** will plead for **God** to spare Sodom **(18:1)**. In addition, **Ephron's field in Machpelah near Mamre, both the field and the cave in it,** would eventually become the burying place for all the patriarchs **(23:17-19).**

Mamre signifies *fatness.* The original name of **Hebron** was *Kiryat Arba*, which means *the town of the four.* But it was later renamed **Hebron** for **Abraham**, which means *friend or fellowship*, because **he** was the **friend** of **God (Second Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23).** It was not until **Lot** had left **him**, when **Abram** was fully in the will of **ADONAI,** that **Hebron**, which means *communion, fellowship or fully following the Lord,* is mentioned for the first time. Disobedience hinders *fully following the Lord.*

When **Joshua** conquered **the Land** after forty years of wilderness wanderings, **God** singled out **Caleb** as being worthy to enter in. **But because My servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the Land he went to and his descendants will inherit it (Numbers 14:24).** Therefore, when **Joshua** was dividing up **the Land he blessed Caleb and gave him Hebron. So Hebron belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since because he followed ADONAI, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly (Joshua 14:13-14). Caleb** *fully followed the Lord;* therefore, **he** had **Hebron,** or *fellowship with the Lord.*

Then **Abram** continued **his** custom as **he built an altar to ADONAI near the great trees of Mamre. He built** a true **altar** in a pagan place of worship. This is how **Abram** took possession of **the Land** both physically and spiritually. **He** would build **altars** to **the LORD** in pagan places of worship. **Hebron** would be **his** home for some time now, and **he** wanted a place where **his** family and servants could meet to worship **God**. Here also was where **ADONAI** had spoken to **him** and the place where **he** would be buried. It was especially dear to **him**.[245]

In **Chapter 13 Abram** is a man of peace, but in **Chapter 14 Abram** is a man of war. Both actions are a result of **Abram's** responsibility to **his** nephew **Lot**.