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The Death of Abraham

25: 7-11

The death of Abraham DIG: Through Abraham's experience with God, what do you learn about the way the LORD treats us when we are obedient? When we are fearful? When we are wayward?



Altogether, Avraham lived a hundred and seventy-five years (25:7). This was the fulfillment of ADONAI's promise to **him** that **he** would **be buried at a good old age (15:15)**. Isaac (Hebrew: **Yitz'chak**) was then seventy-five years old, and **his** grandchildren Jacob and Esau were fifteen years old. So **he** was able to see **his** grandchildren grow up. This shows that **Genesis** was not written in strict chronological order. It is basically chronological, but not strictly so. Sometimes when a story comes to an end, it goes back and picks up a new story line, as is the case with Jacob and Esau coming up shortly.

It is one thing to live a long life. But it is quite another to live a long life that is also content. **Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years literally satisfied. He saw all the desires of his heart fulfilled.** This is the first indication we have in **Genesis** that there is life beyond the grave. **Avraham** was **living by faith when he died (Hebrews 11:13-16)**. **He was gathered to his people (25:8)**. This is

the first occurrence of this phrase in the Bible and it means *to go to the realm of the dead, referring to the destiny of the spirit, not the body* (**James 2:26**). The word in the TaNaKh for the realm of the dead is *sh'ol* and the New Covenant equivalent is *Hades*.³⁹⁹ It was a temporary place for the spirits while awaiting the resurrection. Since **his people** were in Mesopotamia and since none of **his** ancestors were **buried in the cave of Machpelah**, this can only refer to life after death. In other words, **he** was with those before **him** who had **died in faith**. Nineteen hundred years later, the location of such departed spirits was actually called *sh'ol*, or **Abraham's side** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ, to see link click Hx - The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus**).⁴⁰⁰

His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah (25:9-10).

After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Yitz'chak, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi (25:11). When **Abraham** by faith sent away all **his** other **sons**, **he** provided for transferring **his** blessing to **Isaac** who waited on **the LORD**. **Abraham** would be gone, but **ADONAI's** program would continue; no leader of the covenant is indispensable, for **His** program to bless the world will continue to grow and expand from generation to generation. Each of **the LORD's** servants must do all they can to ensure the ongoing of **God's** work, but the work is bigger than any individual.⁴⁰¹