GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

LIVING HONORABLY BY HONORING GOD

GENESIS 23

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

Why does **Israel** need to know this?

They are seeing the following truth about their God who has called them to this moment as His people —*“Is anything to difficult for the Lord?”*

How much time has gone by since Abraham’s life and up to the moment when the Israelites began to conquer Canaan according to God’s promise?

430 years

Why do **we** need to know this?

We need to see **God's greater promise** made to us in Abraham and kept to us in Jesus Christ:

*"…that **in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles**, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith…. And if you belong to Christ, **then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise**."* (Gal. 3:14, 29)

*"But when the fullness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son**, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might **redeem** those who were under the Law, that **we might receive the adoption as sons."*** (Gal. 4:4-5)

That is the life of a <u>God-fearer</u>. Can you say this about yourself?

What are you doing with God's gift of His Son to you? How are you showing God the thankfulness of your heart to Him for keeping His promise to save you from sin, death, and hell?

How this passage reflects honoring God by honorable living:

I. **Abraham Honors His <u>Wife</u>** (Gen. 23:1-2)

*"All these died in faith, **<u>without receiving the promises</u>**, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on earth…. And all these, having gained approval through their faith, **<u>did not receive what was promised</u>**."* (Heb. 11:13, 39)

<u>On God's side of things</u> is the new spiritual life He gives us to live now.

He upholds His faithfulness to give us everything He has promised us in Jesus Christ.

I. **Abraham Honors His <u>Wife</u>** (Gen. 23:1-2)

“In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; ***<u>for I go to prepare a place for you</u>*** [promise made]*. If I go and prepare a place for you,* ***<u>I will come again and receive you to Myself</u>*** [promise made]*, that where I am,* ***<u>there you may be also</u>*** [promise made]*.”*
(John 14:2-3)

<u>On our side of things</u> is the life we offer to God on this side of heaven.

We uphold our faithfulness to glorify God in the fear of the Lord.

I. **Abraham Honors His <u>Wife</u>** (Gen. 23:1-2)

Life here must give way to death here.

Death here must give way to life ever-after. And life ever-after is the fulfillment of every promise of God to those who fear Him.

Jesus calls us to live with eternity in mind.

> *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth…. But store up for yourselves **<u>treasures in heaven</u>**… for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* (Matt. 6:19-21)

I. Abraham Honors His Wife (Gen. 23:1-2)

II. Abraham Honors His Neighbors (Gen. 23:3-20)

*"He spoke to Ephron **in the hearing of the people of the land**…"*

They are **critical witnesses** to this legal interaction.

In verse 18 we see the full weight of this transaction resolved in clear terms:

*"…**were deeded over to Abraham for a possession** in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city."*

I. Abraham Honors His Wife (Gen. 23:1-2)

II. Abraham Honors His Neighbors (Gen. 23:3-20)

III. Abraham Honors His God (entire passage)

God **formed** and **forged** Abraham into a **humble**, **teachable**, and **influential** man.

We can best understand Abraham's actions as that **of a man owned by God**.

God-fearers know Who it is who owns them. And God-fearers **persevere** in their privilege to live out earthly matters in God-honoring ways.

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