

Parashah 5 - Hayyei-Sarah - תַּיִי שָׂרָה - “Sarah’s Life”



Torah: B'resheet 23:1-25:18

- Aliyah 1 - 23:1 -16 Sarah dies in Hevron at 127; Avraham purchases the Makhpelah field
- Aliyah 2 - 23:17 -24:9 Sarah buried there; Avraham’s servant commissioned to find a wife for Yitz’chak
- Aliyah 3 - 24:10 -26 The servant takes gifts, meets Rivkah by God’s graceful sign
- Aliyah 4 - 24:27 -52 The servant speaks to Lavan, tells his story, and they respond positively
- Aliyah 5 - 24:53 -67 Rivkah agrees, is blessed, they leave; Rivkah becomes Yitz’chak’s wife
- Aliyah 6 - 25:1 -11 Avraham marries K’turah, gives inheritance to Yitz’chak alone, dies, and is buried
- Aliyah 7 - 25:12 -18 Yishma’el’s genealogy

Haftarah: 1 Kings 1:1-31

B’rit Hadashah: 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

1. What word (characteristic, attribute) would you use to describe Sarah’s life? Did she receive God’s promises during her lifetime? (See Heb 11:13-16, and Pro 3:5-6)
2. The purchase of the Machpella cave is described in detail in 23:20. Why is this important?
3. In Hebrew, a match between a man and a woman is called a shidduch. How does this concept of finding a shidduch compare with our culture’s method? (24:9) Was credibility and status an issue? If so, how was it established? (24:10)
4. Why was it important for Yitz’chak not to marry a Canaanite?
5. How can the quest for Yitz’chak’s bride be interpreted Messianically? How is this quest a model for evangelism?
6. When Rivka first sees Yitz’chak, what is he doing in the field? (24:63) What is her response to this first sighting?

Parashah 5 - Hayyei-Sarah - תַּיִי שָׂרָה
“Sarah’s Life”



7. Avraham gives “all that he has” to Yitz’chak (25:5), and he gives “gifts” to all his other sons. What is the difference?

8. The Torah tells us that Avraham died without receiving what was promised to him, yet he was “satisfied” with life (25:8). Why? How does this apply to our lives?

9. (25:18) What happened to the “sons” of Ishmael?

10. How is the Haftarah related to the Torah portion?

Questions for reflection and application:

1. (23:1) Life is short. The years pass by. How are you spending them? Are you making the most of each and every day? (Mat 6:34, Jam 4:13, Pro 3:5-6, Heb 11:13-16)

2. (23:17) God gave the land to Avraham through a covenant, yet he purchases Ef’ron’s field. We were bought with a price (1Co 6:20) and belong to God. Are you claiming more of “the land” every day?

3. (24:10) Avraham’s servant held “all of his master’s goods in hand.” Likewise, we are fully authorized to represent our Master. Are you moving in power and boldness with all of His goods in your hands? (Act 4:23-31, Mar 16:14-18, Heb 2:3-4)

4. (24:27) Avraham’s servant thanked and credited Adonai with leading him in “the way.” Are you walking in the way He has prepared for you, or your own way? (Amo 7:14-15, 2Sa 7:8-16, 2Sa18-29)

5. (24:53) Eliezer paid a “bride price” to Rivkah’s family, but also gave gifts specifically to her. As the bride of Messiah, what does that mean to you? (1Co 2:9, Rom 8:32)

6. (25:5) Avraham gave all he had to Yitz’chak. In who are you investing all you have? (Zec 8:13)

7. (25:16) God fulfilled his promise to Yishma’el. How have his descendants responded? (Rom 1:18-21)