

<p><b>Torah:</b> B’resheet (Genesis) 23:1-25:18  <b>Haftarah:</b> Malakhim Alef (1 Kings) 1:1-31  <b>B’rit Hadashah:</b> Galatians 4:21-31</p>		<i>year 1</i> 23:1-24:9	<i>year 2</i> 24:10-52	<i>year 3</i> 24:53-25:18
	1	23:1 – 4	24:10 – 14	<b>24:53 – 58</b>
	2	23:5 – 7	24:15 – 20	<b>24:59 – 61</b>
	3	23:8 – 12	24:21 – 26	<b>24:62 – 67</b>
	4	23:13 – 16	24:27 – 33	<b>25:1 – 6</b>
	5	23:17 – 20	24:34 – 41	<b>25:7 – 11</b>
	6	24:1 – 4	24:42 – 49	<b>25:12 – 15</b>
	7	24:5 – 9	24:50 – 52	<b>25:16 – 18</b>

and the servant brought out jewels of silver and jewels of gold and garments and he gave [them] to Rivkah and precious things he gave to her brother and to her mother	<p><i>va'yotze' ha'aved keley-kefef uk'ley zahav uve'gadiym va'yiten le'Riv'qah u'mig'danot natan le'akhiyha ule'imah</i></p>	<p>וַיּוֹצֵא הָעֶבֶד כְּלֵי-כֶסֶף וְכֵלֵי זָהָב וּבְגָדִים וַיִּתֵּן לְרִבְקָה וּמִגְדָּנֹת נָתַן לְאָחִיָּהּ וּלְאִמָּהּ:</p>
--	---	--

Sarah dies at 127. Avraham, by faith, purchases a hereditary burial site, *Me'arat Makhpelah* (מְעָרַת הַמְכַפְּלָה - double cave?) for her for an exorbitant price. This first recorded interment emphasizes 1) Avraham’s great respect for the dead and proper burial of the dead, 2) that it is the first piece of real estate in the Promised Land, secured by the founding father of the nation through a transaction that is final, irrevocable, absolute, and incontestable and 3) affirms his faith in HaShem’s promise that his descendants will inherit the land. The last step of his spiritual journey is to select a wife for Yitz’khaq for posterity (Ge. 21:12). The unnamed servant mediates the transition from his master Avraham (Ge. 24:9) to his master Yitz’khaq (Ge. 24:65) who marries Rivkah at age 40.

**Aliyah Summary**

- Gen. 24:53-58** Ancient practice of giving gifts for the bride and her family (Ge. 34:12, Ex. 22:16) to compensate for the loss of the bride and her offspring to the groom. Deal is done – we’ll forego the party (Ge. 31:27). But no one has asked Rivqah herself!
- Gen. 24:59-61** Rivkah is given a blessing similar to that given to Avraham after the Akedah (22:17), marking the historic and providential events that will lead to fulfilment of divine promises of progeny and security. Her nurse and lifetime chaperone, D’vorah (see also 35:8) as well as other maids attest to her social status (Ge. 29:24, 29, Ex. 2:5).
- Gen. 24:62-67** For Be’er-Lakhai-Ro’i see 16:14, 25:11. Tradition of evening prayer is demonstrated. Yitz’khaq and Rivqah “see” each other simultaneously with instant recognition of the other. Israelite women were not normally veiled (12:14); culturally marks a free woman; unspoken sign from Rivqah to Yitz’khaq that she is indeed his bride. The servant tells Yitz’khaq everything he has done. He “takes” (legal marriage) her and she becomes recognized as the successor to the matriarch Sarah, assuring the continuity of the generations. This is the second mention of love in Torah (see 22:2).
- Gen. 25:1-6** The following is not specifically relate to a time after Sarah’s death (1Ch. 1:32 refers to Keturah as a concubine). Avraham takes another wife, *Keturah* – from the Hebrew word for “spices.” Having 6 more sons, Avraham provides for them, but sends them to the East, away from Yitz’khaq, legally excluding them from any inheritance. Some are well documented along international trade routes. Midianites and Yishma’elim are mentioned in Gen. 37:25, 28, Judg. 8:24. Others are documented in international trade. The plural “concubines” (v. 5) are Hagar and Keturah. In these verses, the narrator presents a history of humanity as the fulfillment of HaShem’s purpose through Avraham’s two sons, Yishma’el and Yitz’khaq

## Parashah 5-3 Hayyei Sarah תַּיִ שָׂרָה

5. **Gen. 25:7-11** Avraham dies at 175 years old, living to see his grandchildren's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Life is not measured in longevity but in quality. The afterlife is attested to by the idiom, "gathered to his people," also used of Yishma'el, Yitz'khaq, Ya'aqov, Aharon, and Moshe. BOTH Yishma'el and Yitz'khaq buried Avraham with Sarah. God blessed Yitz'khaq, a fulfillment of the promise given in Ge. 17:21, who goes to live where the promise of a son, Yishma'el, was given to Hagar, indication of a positive relationship between the two.
6. **Gen. 25:12-15** The genealogy of Yishma'el, noting the fulfillment of the promise of HaShem to Hagar (17:20)
7. **Gen. 25:16-18** Territorial boundaries (limits of settlement/migration)

---

### Thought Focus

---

1. **The power to choose:** After all is said and done, Eliezer demanded an answer which no one else could give – not Rivqah's father, not Eliezer, not even HaShem. It was all up to Rivqah herself. We have been blessed with immense responsibility – a free will. What we say and do matters. We are true partners with HaShem.
2. **The extra mile:** Rivqah went the extra mile, and it opened the door of possibility. Why did she do it? For financial gain? For a title, recognition, validation? For power or influence? Maybe for her own personal learning and growth? Should we go the extra mile? Perhaps you should go the extra mile when the opportunity presents itself. See what you get back. If you get back something of value, great! If not, reconsider your values. You can always pull back. Or push back. Or just leave the situation. The choice is yours.

---

### Daily Devotional 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 Efron'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)