

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

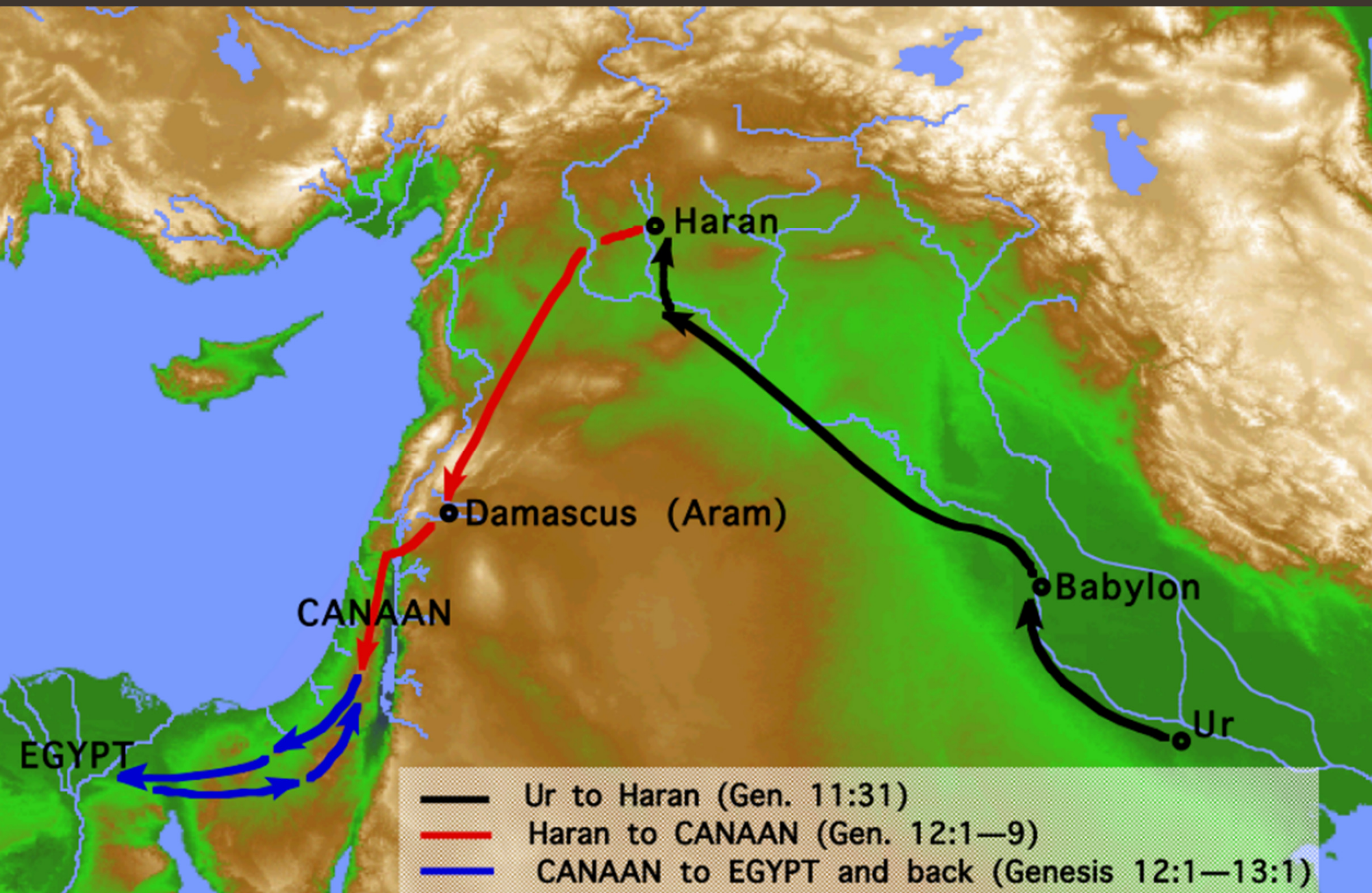
Genesis 23:1-20

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

- I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32
- II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26
 - A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

1. The Path of Faith, 12:1-20
2. The Price of Faith, 13:1-18
3. The Power of Faith, 14:1-24
4. The Pledge of Faith, 15:1-21
5. The Pawning of Faith, 16:1-16
6. The Potential of Faith, 17:1-27
7. The Perplexing of Faith, 18:1-33
8. The Position of Faith, 19:1-38
9. The Perils of Faith, 20:1-18
10. The Prize of Faith, 21:1-34
11. The Proof of Faith, 22:1-24
 - a. The Test of Faith, 22:1-13
 - b. The Triumph of Faith, 22:14-19
 - c. The Trail to Faith, 22:20-24

Tonight, we will observe “*the Patience of Faith.*” Abraham and Sarah, together, began a journey of faith 62 years earlier. Patiently walking by faith, Abraham received God’s promise of a son via Sarah. Now, Sarah’s journey of faith has come to a close.



❖ Sarah's life, parallel with Abraham's, is a picture of "the patience of faith."

12. The Patience of Faith, 23:1-20

a. The Death of Sarah, 23:1-2

Gen. 23:1 And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old: *these were* the years of the life of Sarah.

2 And Sarah died in **Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan**: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.

- ❖ Sarah was born 2018 years after creation; she lived 127 years and died 2145 A.C. (which would be about 1859 B.C.)
- ❖ Sarah is the only woman whose age is given regarding her death.
- ❖ More information is recorded about Sarah's death and burial than Abraham's.
- ❖ Kirjatharba is identified as being "the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan."



CAVE OF MACHPELAH (HEBRON)





❖ Sarah patiently waited 25 years to experience the promise of a son from God.

Heb. 11:11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, **because she judged him faithful who had promised.**

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

❖ An indispensable part of faith is the discipline to wait upon the Lord.

Psa. 27:14 **Wait on the LORD**: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: **wait, I say, on the LORD.**

Psa. 37:7 Rest in the LORD, and **wait patiently for him**: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Psa. 130:5 **I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.**

❖ While waiting upon the Lord, life requires attention to various challenges, even burials.

b. The Debate over the Sepulchre, 23:3-18

❖ The recording of this transaction details several principles of negotiation:

- Locate the place desired.

23:9 That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he hath, which *is* in the end of his field; for as much money as it is worth he shall give it me **for a possession of a buryingplace amongst you.**

- Determine the price of purchase.

23:14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying unto him,
15 My lord, hearken unto me: **the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver**; what *is* that betwixt me and thee? bury therefore thy dead.

- Pay a fair price and purchase the property with a witness to the transaction.

16 And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, **which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant.**

- Consider a transaction with future ramifications.

- ❖ For almost 700 years, the cave of Machpelah was the burial place of the Patriarchs.

Gen. 25:9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael **buried him in the cave of Machpelah**, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which *is* before Mamre;

Gen. 49:30 **In the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah**, which *is* before Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite for a possession of a buryingplace.

31 **There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.**

Gen. 50:13 For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him **in the cave of the field of Machpelah**, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a buryingplace of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre.

Josh. 24:32 And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, **buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem** for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

Ex. 12:41 And it came to pass at the end of the **four hundred and thirty years**, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.

Gal. 3:17 And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was **four hundred and thirty years after**, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

c. The Development and Security, 23:19-20

23:19 And after this, **Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre:** the same *is* Hebron in the land of Canaan.

20 And the field, and the cave that *is* therein, **were made sure** unto Abraham for a possession of a buryingplace by the sons of Heth.

❖ The love story of Abraham and Sarah ends as Isaac and Rebekah begin their marital relationship.

Gen. 22:23 And **Bethuel begat Rebekah**: these eight Milcah did bear to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

Gen. 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and **took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her**: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.

Summary

Sarah (Israel) dies and is replaced by Rebekah (the bride – for the beloved son.)

The life of Sarah is a reminder of the inevitability of every person: make choices; live with them; live and die by God's grace; throughout a lifetime...walk patiently by faith.

Heb. 9:27 And as **it is appointed unto men once to die**, but after this the judgment:

Psa. 23:4 Yea, though **I walk through** the valley of **the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me**; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Rev. 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**

LIVE.LEARN.LOVE.LAUGH.

Conclusion

Rom. 12:9 *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10 *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;