

SYNCHRONIZING THE HOLY BIBLE (KJV) and JASHER

The story format is for easier reading. Duplications removed.

Death of Sarah to Death of Abraham, Part 5

By Maralyn B. Dyck

Introduction: Where the Dead Sea Scrolls are the same as the Bible, I have, for the most part, used the Dead Sea Scrolls for this story. The Bible version, of course, you can read from the Bible. My comments are in brackets. The Holy Bible will be in black normal writing and the scrolls will be in Italics. Remember, the scrolls are not divine scripture, but they appear to be very accurate as far as history is concerned; they give more details which are very interesting. Various interpreters could have changed things a bit over the years.

Genesis 23:1-20, Jasher 24:1-15 *Abraham rose up from before his dead to seek a burial place to bury his wife Sarah; and he went and spoke to the children of Heth, the inhabitants of the land, saying, "I am a stranger...in your land; give me a possession of a burial place in your land, that I may bury my dead from before me.*

And the children of Heth said unto Abraham, "Behold the land is before thee, in the choice of our sepulchres bury thy dead, for no man shall withhold thee from burying thy dead."

And Abraham said, "And Abraham said unto them, "If you are agreeable to this go and entreat for me to Ephron, the son of Zochar, requesting that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which is in the end of his field, and I will purchase it of him for whatever he desire for it. [After a lengthy discussion Abraham buys the burial site for four hundred shekels of silver and buries Sarah there. The site will be his forever and many witnesses are listed.]

Genesis 24:1-67 through Genesis 25, Jasher 24:16-45 to 26:1-39 *And after this Abraham buried his wife Sarah there, and that place became to Abraham and unto his seed for a possession of a burial place.*

And Abraham buried Sarah with pomp as observed at the interment of kings, and she was buried in very fine and beautiful garments. And at her bier was Shem, his sons Eber and Abimilech, together with Anar, Ashcol and Mamre, and all the grandees of the land followed her bier...Abraham performed the rites of mourning for seven days.

And when the days of their mourning passed by Abraham sent away his son Isaac, and he went to the house of Shem and Eber, to earn the ways of the Lord, and his instructions, and Abraham remained there three years.

At that time Abraham rose up with all his servants, and they went and returned homeward to Beersheba, and Abraham and all his servants remained in Beersheba...

And Lot the son of Haran also died in those days, in the thirty-ninth year of the life of Isaac, and all the days that Lot lived were one hundred and forty years and he died. [Geneologies are given and since they are quite lengthy, I will omit them in this article. Read Jasher to fill in the details that I omit.]

Nahor the sone of Terah, brother to Abraham, died in those days in the fortieth year of the life of Isaac, and all the days of Nahor were one hundred and seventy-two years and he died and was buried in Haran. When Abraham heard that his brother was dead he grieved sadly, and he mourned over his brother many days.

And Abraham called for Eliezer his head servant, to give him orders concerning his house, and he came and stood before him.

And Abraham said to him, "Behold I am old, I do not know the day of my death; for I am advanced in days; now therefore rise up, go forth and do not take a wife for my son from this land and from this land, from the daughters of the Canaanites amongst whom we dwell.

"But go to my land and to my birthplace, and take from thence a wife for my son, and the Lord God of Heaven and earth who took me from my father's house and brought me to this place and said unto me, 'To thy seed will I give this land for an inheritance forever, he will send his angel before thee and prosper thy way, that thou mayest obtain a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house.

And the servant answered his master, "Behold, I go to thy birthplace and to thy father's house, and take a wife for thy son from there; but if the woman be not willing to follow me to this land, shall I take thy son back to the land of thy birthplace?"

And Abraham said unto him, "Take heed that thou bring not my son hither again, for the Lord before whom I have walked he will send his angel before thee and prosper thy way.

And Eliezer did as Abraham ordered him, and Eliezer swore unto Abraham his master upon this matter; and Eliezer rose up and took ten camels of the camels of his master, and ten men from his master's servants with him, and they rose up and went to Haran, the city of Abraham and Nahor, in order to fetch a wife for Isaac the son of Abraham; and whilst they were gone Abraham sent to the house of Shem and Eber, and they brought from thence his son Isaac.

And Isaac came home to his father's house to Beersheba, whilst Eliezer and his men came to Haran; and they stopped in the city by the watering place, and he made his camels to kneel down by the water and they remained there.

And Eliezer, Abraham's servant, prayed and said, "O God of Abraham my master; send me I pray thee good speed this day and show kindness unto my master, that thou shalt appoint this day a wife for my master's son from his family.

And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Eliezer, for the sake of his servant Abraham, and he happened to meet with the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, brother to Abraham...

"O Lord, God of my master," he prayed. "Give me success and show kindness to my master, Abraham. Help me to accomplish the purpose of my journey. See, here I am, standing beside this spring, and the young women of the village are coming to draw water. This is my request. I will ask one of them for a drink. If she says, 'Yes, certainly, and I will water your camels, too!'—let her be the one you have appointed as Isaac's wife. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."

As he was still praying, a young woman named Rebekah arrived with a water jug on her shoulder. Her father was Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife, Milcah. Now Rebekah was very beautiful, and she was a virgin; no man had ever slept with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came up again. Running over to her, the servant asked, "Please give me a drink."

“Certainly, sir,” she said, and she quickly lowered the jug for him to drink. When he had finished, she said, “I’ll draw water for your camels, too, until they have had enough!” So she quickly emptied the jug into the watering trough and ran down to the well again. She kept carrying water to the camels until they had finished drinking.

The servant watched her in silence, wondering whether or not she was the one the Lord intended him to meet. Then, at last, when the camels had finished drinking, he gave her a gold ring for her nose and two large bracelets for her wrists.

“Whose daughter are you?” he asked. “Would your father have any room to put us up for the night?”

“My father is Bethuel,” she replied. “My grandparents are Nahor and Milcah. Yes, we have plenty of straw and food for the camels, and we have a room for guests.”

The man fell down to the ground and worshiped the Lord. “Praise be to the Lord, the God of my master, Abraham,” he said. “The Lord has been so kind and faithful to Abraham, for he has led me straight to my master’s relatives.”

The young woman ran home to tell her family about all that had happened. Now Rebekah had a brother named Laban. When he saw the nose-ring and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists, and when he heard her story, he rushed out to the spring, where the man was still standing beside his camels. Laban said to him, “Come and stay with us, you who are blessed by the Lord. Why do you stand here outside the village when we have a room all ready for you and a place prepared for the camels!”

So the man went home with Laban, and Laban unloaded the camels, gave him straw to bed them down, fed them, and provided water for the camel drivers to wash their feet. Then supper was served. But Abraham’s servant said, “I don’t want to eat until I have told you why I have come.”

“All right,” Laban said, “tell us your mission.”

“I am Abraham’s servant,” he explained. “And the Lord has blessed my master richly; he has become a great man. The Lord has given him flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, a fortune in silver and gold, and many servants and camels and donkeys.

“When Sarah, my master’s wife, was very old, she gave birth to my master’s son, and my master has given him everything he owns. And my master made me swear that I would not let Isaac marry one of the local Canaanite women. Instead, I was to come to his relatives here in this far-off land, to his father’s home. I was told to bring back a young woman from here to marry his son.

“‘But suppose I can’t find a young woman willing to come back with me?’ I asked him. ‘You will,’ he told me, for the Lord in whose presence I have walked, will send his angel with you and will make your mission successful. Yes, you must get a wife for my son, from among my relatives, from my father’s family. But if you go to my relatives and they refuse to let her come, you will be free from your oath.’

Eliezer related to them all his concerns, and that he was Abraham’s servant, and they greatly rejoiced at him.

And they blessed the Lord who brought this thing about, and they gave him Rebecca, the daughter of Bethuel for a wife for Isaac.

And the young woman was of very comely appearance, she was a virgin, and Rebecca was ten years old in those days.

And Bethuel and Laban and his children made a feast on that night, and Eliezer and his men came and ate and drank and rejoiced there on that night.

But early the next morning, he said, "Send me back to my master."

Her brother and her mother said, "But we want Rebekah to stay at least ten days, then she can go."

But he said, "Don't hinder my return. The Lord has made my mission successful, and I want to report back to my master."

"Well," they said, "we'll call Rebekah and ask her what she thinks." So they called Rebekah. "Are you willing to go with this man?" they asked her.

And she replied, "Yes, I will go."

So they said good-bye to Rebekah and sent her away with Abraham's servant and his men. The woman who had been Rebekah's childhood nurse went along with her. They blessed her with this blessing as she parted:

"Our sister, may you become the mother of many millions! May your descendants overcome all their enemies."

Then Rebekah and her servants mounted the camels and left with Abraham's servant.

Eliezer rose up in the morning, he and the men that were with him, and he called to the whole household of Bethuel, saying, Send me away that I may go to my master; and they rose up and sent away Rebecca and her nurse Deborah, the daughter of Uz, and they gave her silver and gold, men and servants and maid servants, and they blessed her.

And they sent Eliezer away with his men; and the servants took Rebecca, and he went and returned to his master to the land of Canaan.

Meanwhile, Isaac, whose home was in the Negev, had returned from Beer-lahairoi. One evening as he was taking a walk out in the fields, meditating, he looked up and saw the camels coming.

When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted. "Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?" she asked the servant.

And he replied, "It is my master." So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. Then the servant told Isaac the whole story.

And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother's tent, and she became his wife. He loved her very much, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of his uncle Bethuel, for a wife.

And it was at that time that Abraham again took a wife in his old age, and her name was Keturah, from the land of Canaan. [She bare him six sons that had grandsons and great grandsons. Read Jasher for genealogies.]

And Abraham sent all of these away, and he gave them gifts, and they went away from his son Isaac to dwell wherever they should find a place. And all of these went to the mountain at the east, and they built themselves six cities in which they dwelt unto this day.

The children of Sheba and Dedan, children of Jokshan, with their children, did not dwell with their brethren in the cities, and they journeyed and encamped in the countries and wildernesses unto this day. [A long list of travels of the rest of Keturah's descendants follows...in the book of Jasher. Not needed for this story format. It is followed by Ishmael's descendants for those studying genealogies—lots of names are given that are not available elsewhere.]

Rebecca the daughter of Bethuel, the wife of Abraham's son Isaac, was barren in those days. She had no offspring; and Isaac dwelt with his father in the land of Canaan; and the Lord was with Isaac. Arpachshad the son of Shem the son of Noah died in those days, in the fourth-eighth year of the life of Isaac, and all the days that Arpachshad lived were 438 years, and he died.

In the 59th year of the life of Isaac the son of Abraham, Rebecca his wife was still barren in those days. And Rebecca said unto Isaac, Truly I have heard, my lord, that thy mother Sarah was barren in her days until my Lord Abraham, thy father prayed for her and she conceived by him.

“Now therefore stand up, pray thou also to God and he will hear thy prayer and remember us through his mercies.”

And Isaac answered his wife Rebecca, saying, “Abraham has already prayed for me to God to multiply his seed, now therefore this barrenness must proceed to us from thee.”

“And Rebecca said unto him, “But arise now thou also and pray, that the Lord may hear thy prayer and grant me children, and Isaac hearkened to the words of his wife, and Isaac and his wife rose up and went to the land of Moriah to pray there and to seek the Lord, and when they had reached that place Isaac stood up and prayed to the Lord on account of his wife because she was barren. [Remember Moriah? That is where Isaac was almost sacrificed by Abraham. Perhaps Isaac felt God's presence was stronger there?]

And Isaac said, “O Lord God of heaven and earth, whose goodness and mercies fill the earth, thou who didst take my father from his father's house and from his birthplace, and didst bring him unto this land, and didst say unto him, To thy seed will I give the land, and thou didst promise him and didst declare unto him, I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand of the sea, now may thy words be verified which thou didst speak unto my father.

“For thou art the Lord our God, our eyes are toward thee to give us seed of men, as thou didst promise us, for thou art the Lord our God and our eyes are directed toward thee only.”

And in about seven months after the children struggled together within her, and it pained her greatly that she was wearied on account of them, and she said to all the women who were then in the land, Did such a thing happen to you as it has to me and they said unto her, No.

And she said unto them, Why am I alone in this amongst all the women that were upon the earth? And she went to the land of Moriah to seek the Lord on account of this; [Moriah again!] and she went to Shem and Eber his son to make inquiries of them in this matter, and that they should seek the Lord in this thing respecting her.

And she also asked Abraham to seek and inquire of the Lord about all that had befallen her.

And they all inquired of the Lord concerning this matter, and they brought her word from the Lord and told her, "Two children are in thy womb, and two nations shall rise from them; and one nation shall be stronger than the other, and the greater shall serve the younger."

And when her days to be delivered were completed, she knelt down, and behold there were twins in her womb, as the Lord had spoken to her.

And the first came out red all over like a hairy garment, and all the people of the land called his name Esau, saying, That this one was made complete from the womb.

And after that came his brother, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel, therefore they called his name Jacob.

And Isaac, the son of Abraham, was sixty years old when he begat them.

And the boys grew up to their fifteenth year, and they came amongst the society of men. Esau was a designing and deceitful man, and an expert hunter in the field, and Jacob was a man perfect and wise, dwelling in tents, feeding flocks and learning the instructions of the Lord and the commands of his father and mother.

And Isaac and the children of his household dwelt with his father Abraham in the land of Canaan, as God had commanded them.

And Ishmael the son of Abraham went with his children and all belonging to them, and they dwelt there.

And all the children of Abraham's concubines went to dwell in the land of the east, for Abraham had sent them away from his son Isaac, and he also gave him all his treasures.

And Abraham commanded Isaac saying, "Dost thou not know and understand the Lord is God in heaven and in earth, and there is no other beside him? And it was he who took me from my father's house, and from my birth place, and gave me all the delights upon earth; who delivered me from the counsel of the wicked, for in him did I trust.

"And he brought me to this place, and he delivered me from Ur Casdim; and he said unto me, To thy seed will I give all these lands, and they shall inherit them when they keep my commandments, my statutes and my judgments that I have commanded thee and which I shall command them.'

"And remember the wonderful works of the Lord, and his kindness that he has shown toward us, in having delivered us from the hands of our enemies, and the Lord our God caused them to fall into our hands; and now therefore keep all that I have commanded thee, and turn not away from the commandments of thy God and serve none beside him, in order that it may be well with thee and thy seed after thee.

“And teach thou thy children and thy seed the instructions of the Lord and his commandments, and teach them the upright way in which they should go, in order that it may be well with them forever.”

And Isaac answered his father and said unto him, “That which my Lord has commanded that will I do, and I will not depart from the commands of the Lord my God; I will keep all that he commanded me; and Abraham blessed his son Isaac, and also his children; and Abraham taught Jacob the instruction of the Lord and his ways.

And it was at this time that Abraham died, in the 15th year of the life of Jacob and Esau, the sons of Isaac, and all the days of Abraham were 175 years, and he died and was gathered to his people in good old age, old and satisfied with days, and Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him.

His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite. This was the field Abraham had purchased from the Hittites, where he had buried his wife Sarah. After Abraham’s death, God poured out rich blessings on Isaac, who settled near Beer-lahairoi in the Negev.

And when the inhabitants of Canaan heard that Abraham was dead, they all came with their kings and princes and all their men to bury Abraham.

And all the inhabitants of Haran, and all the families of the house of Abraham, and all the princes and grandees, and the sons of Abraham by the concubines, all came when they heard of Abraham’s death, and they requited Abraham’s kindness, and comforted Isaac his son, and they buried Abraham in the cave which he bought from Ephron the Hittite and his children, for the possession of a burial place.

All the inhabitants of Canaan, and all those who had known Abraham, wept for Abraham a whole year, and men and women mourned over him.

And all the little children and all the inhabitants of the land wept on account of Abraham, for Abraham had been good to them all, and because he had been upright with God and men.

And there was not a man who feared God like unto Abraham, for he had feared his God from his youth, and had served the Lord, and had done in all his ways during his life, from his childhood to the day of his death.

And the Lord was with him and delivered him from the counsel of Nimrod and his people, and when he made war with the four kings of Elam he conquered them.

And he brought all the children of the earth to the service of God, and he taught them the ways of the Lord, and caused them to know the Lord.

And he formed a grove and he planted a vineyard therein, and he had always prepared in his tent meat and drink to those that passed through the land, that they might satisfy themselves in the house.

And the Lord God delivered the whole earth on account of Abraham.

And it was after the death of Abraham that God blessed his son Isaac and his children, and the Lord was with Isaac as he had been with his father Abraham, for Isaac kept all the commandments of the Lord as Abraham his father had commanded him; he did not turn to the right or to the left from the right path which his father had commanded him.

(Continued in the next article.)

Ancient Book of Jubilees by Ken Johnson, Th.D., The Books of Enoch by Joseph B. Lumpkin, Ancient Book of Jasher by Ken Johnson, Th.D. OR all three in one volume called Genesis by Rob Skiba. Available on Amazon.