



**Message 11-22-08**  
**Chayei Sarah-Life of Sarah**  
**Genesis 23:1-25:18**  
**1 Kings 1:1-31**  
**Acts 2:38-39**

**Introduction**

This week's Torah portion begins with the death of Sarah and describes Abraham's purchase of a burial ground for Sarah and arranging for a wife for his son Isaac.

**Genesis 23:1-4**

**1** Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; *these were* the years of the life of Sarah. **2** So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. **3** Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying, **4** "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

**616** גֵּר ger {gare} or (fully) גֵּיִר geyr (gare)

**Meaning:** sojourner, a temporary inhabitant, a newcomer lacking inherited rights, of foreigners in Israel, though conceded rights

**8453** תּוֹשָׁב towshab {to-shawb'} or תּוֹשָׁב toshab (1 Ki 17:1) {to-shawb'}

**Meaning:** sojourner, stranger

Many times in the past I have referred to the Hebrew word "**ger**" which properly translated means sojourner and foreigner, someone who desires to become part of a nation and for us this is Israel. The difference between a **ger** and one who is native born is that the **ger** has made a free-will choice to join them to a nation. In the case of Israel the individual is usually referred to as a God-fearer because they have accepted the God of Israel and His Torah but they have not taken the final steps required to become part of Israel.

Abraham was a **ger** in the land of Canaan. He was not native born to any of the nations of the land but God had promised him that Canaan would be the inheritance of Abraham and his descendants. There will be a day when all Believers in Messiah Yeshua will be called back to the Promised Land to live there with Messiah and His Father forever.

In the turbulent times that we find ourselves in, we can see the unfolding of prophecy right before our eyes. The world has been moving towards becoming a one world nation. This would be the same as what happened at the Tower of Babel.

**Genesis 11:1** Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. **2** And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. **3** Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. **4** And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." **5** But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. **6** And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. **7** "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." **8** So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

Four hundred years after the flood Nimrod became the first ruler of people upon the earth. It should be noted that Nimrod's ancestor was Ham, the son of Noah whose grandson Canaan had been cursed by Noah for Ham's sin. The land of Canaan had to have been named after the son of Ham and it was in this land and those of the other nations that lived there that God had chosen to give this land to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants forever. Abraham was a sojourner and a stranger in this land that God had promised to him. Abraham dwelt in the land but was never had full ownership. Neither did Isaac or Jacob and it would not be until the Hebrew people, the descendants of Abraham the first Hebrew, that there would be a nation called out by God that would take and dwell in the land as their own land.

In our time those people, the Jewish people, living in the land of Israel do not have full possession of the land. Even in the days of David and Solomon it would appear that Israel did not have full possession of what God had promised to Abraham. As prophecy begins to unfold itself before our eyes we will see many things happening at a quickening pace. Many did not see the financial mess the United States finds itself in and this has snowballed to involve other countries. This is all part of God's plan and in His timing more will happen and we must search the Scriptures so we can be ready for what is coming. Are we in the Last days – I don't know but we could very well be in the beginning of that time. It seems interesting that we have just finished another set of fall festivals and now we are entering into a new Torah cycle which takes us back to the beginning of mankind. I don't think this is mere coincidence. This is God's hand moving and bringing His plan to its conclusion.

Satan will not take this lying down. He has other intentions. It was Satan who inspired the people of Nimrod's time to build the Tower of Babel so that mankind could ascend to heaven and take God's throne and make a name for them. God talks about His name quite a bit in the Word and we come to see that in establishing His name God is declaring Himself to be the Creator of all things that exist. We cannot do anything of our own. We may think we are but the truth is God is the one who

gives us the gifts we have. What we create is because of God and that God is the One who brings all things into being. If we deny the reality of God we are trying to make a name for ourselves in the same way that Nimrod was. He used the people of his day to build the tower and when God saw what man was trying to do He brought confusion to them and caused them to separate and move to other parts of the earth.

Abraham was from Ur of the Chaldeans and Jewish legend has it that Nimrod tested Abraham in what has come to be known as the ten tests of Abraham. One of the tests mirrors the fiery furnace of the book of Daniel into which Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego were cast. I do not know if there is any truth to this at all, all I know is what God's Torah tells us and that is that God called Abraham out of his father's house and told him to go to the land of Canaan, the place that God would give to Abraham and his descendants. Yet, there is more to the story and we see what happens as it plays out through the Bible. Those who came before Abraham were God's people in a different way than Abraham would be. In the story of Noah and his sons we can see some of this in the story of Abraham and Isaac along with Ishmael and then with Jacob and Esau. God worked through Noah and Shem and Japheth. Ham would go his own way just as Esau would do and God would turn away from them and give them over to the enemy, but there is hope for them as there is for us if they turn back to Messiah Yeshua.

### **1 Kings 1:5-10**

**5** Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king; and he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. **6** And his father had never rebuked him at any time by saying, why have you done so? And he also was a very handsome man; and his mother bore him after Absalom. **7** And he conferred with Joab the son of Zorah and with Abiathar the priest; and they followed Adonijah and helped him. **8** But Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and the mighty men who belonged to David were not with Adonijah. **9** And Adonijah sacrificed sheep and oxen and fat cattle by the great stone which is by En-kasra, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the men of Judah and the king's servants; **10** But he did not invite Nathan the prophet; and Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada; and David's mighty men; and Solomon his brother.

**02120** זֹחֶלֶת *zocheleth* (267b)

**Meaning:** *a crawling thing, serpent*

It's very interesting that the place that Adonijah chose to declare himself king is known as the crawling thing or serpent. This tells us who was behind what Adonijah was doing. He made a conscious choice to try to usurp his brother Solomon but God had a plan and nothing can throw that plan off. Of course there have been many times when man has tried to help God's plan when they don't think God is keeping His part of the bargain. What we need to understand is that God has His own time table and that is the one that the entire universe follows.

When we try to help God's plan, do we pray about it and lay it at the feet of Messiah to take before His Father? Or do we try to help the plan move along because that is what we want but is it what God wants?

Sarah tried to help God by getting Abraham to sleep with Hagar and father a son who would be the heir of Abraham and of God's promise to Abraham. God told them Ishmael was not the son of

promise but that Sarah would bear Abraham a son in her old age because God wanted to show He is a God who keeps His word and He is a God who brings miracles to pass. All we got out of Sarah and Abraham's desire to help God was the continuing battle between the Jewish people, the remnant of Israel, and the Arab nations, the descendants of Ishmael. This was a conflict brought about by man's desire to help God.

Jacob tried to help God along with his mother and all it brought about was that God's promise to Rebecca about Jacob and Esau would come to pass despite their interference in God's timing. The descendants of Esau are in contention with the sons of Isaac in our day. God does not need our help and if we can learn anything from the examples found in Scripture it would be that God does not need our help unless He asks us for it.

**Psalm 22:1** To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Deer of the Dawn." A Psalm of David. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?* 2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; and in the night season, and am not silent. 3 But You *are* holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. 4 Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. 5 They cried to You, and were delivered; they trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

These are the words that our Messiah Yeshua would utter as He was about to die on the tree of redemption. My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me? David was clearly tied into God and several times in the Psalms he speaks the words of the Messiah to give us hope that God will keep His word but people it is going to get worse before it will get better. We should not try to help God's plan unless He has called us to help. There are things taking place that are not God's will but we think it is. Pray and seek the will of God before you step out and try to help Him. Many are stepping out but it is not in God's will and we can see the fallout in what happens when they do what they are doing. Have faith and trust in the Lord. He will keep His word.

### **Acts 2:38-39**

**38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be immersed in the name of Yeshua the Messiah for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

As we approach the Last Days we must listen to the words of the Apostle Peter (Shimon) and repent of our sins and receive the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh (the Holy Spirit). It will be the Spirit of God that will help us, teach us, comfort us, and strengthen us for the days ahead. Will you be ready for when He comes back? Have you done all that you can do to prepare yourself and others? Do we just gather once a week and have Erev Shabbat or Shabbat services and that is the end of it. Do we break bread together and share with one another what the Lord is teaching us? Do we bring our needs before the throne of God and ask Him to take them upon Himself? Do we thank Him first and foremost before anything else?

**2 Chronicles 33:13** and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD *was* God. **14** After this he built a wall outside the City of David on the west side of Gihon, in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate; and *it* enclosed Ophel, and he raised it to a very great height. Then he put military captains in all the fortified cities of Judah. **15** He took away the foreign gods and the

idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem; and he cast *them* out of the city. **16** He also repaired the altar of the LORD, sacrificed peace offerings and thank offerings on it, and commanded **Judah** to serve the LORD God of Israel. **17** Nevertheless the people still sacrificed on the high places, *but* only to the LORD their God.

Despite the commands of King Manasseh of Judah, Judah continued to sacrifice on the High Places that were supposed to be destroyed. What we can see from this is that while they brought their sacrifices to the High Places and offered to the God of Israel this did not make it right. This is the same situation we have today. We may worship and praise God on Sunday but is it the day that God instructed us to keep as the Sabbath day? What about those who worship on Sunday but know the 7<sup>th</sup> day is the Sabbath how do they honor the Sabbath day? Does God wink at our transgressions because we believe them to be too tiny for Him to be concerned about?

**Luke 12:6** "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. **7** "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. **8** "Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. **9** "But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God.

If God knows the hair on our heads don't you think He knows what we do that are against Torah and try to justify? One day we will be required to stand before the White Throne of judgment. We need to allow God to work through us and fill us with His Ruach so that we can stand against the Adversary in the day of trials. Satan is moving and God is moving as well. We can see the hand of God at work throughout the world today. This teaching is being given after we, here in the United States, have elected a new President. This is not about the man who the people choose but it is about what God feels we deserve. Whoever is elected will have his hands full. We are called to pray for our leaders at all levels.

Saul was chosen by God to lead Israel as its first king, but God did not choose who He wanted, He chose the king the people of Israel wanted. He gave the people what they asked for. Will we get the same thing? People, we need to get down on our knees before the Lord and humble ourselves before Him. Time is quickening and growing shorter. What will you do with what the time you have left?

***When the storm is loud and the night dark, I look to You; when the soul is sad, and the heart oppressed, I look to You; let me see the light of Your love, and by that light let me go on, and on, and on.***

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May the Lord bless you and yours... *Mordecai Silver*

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