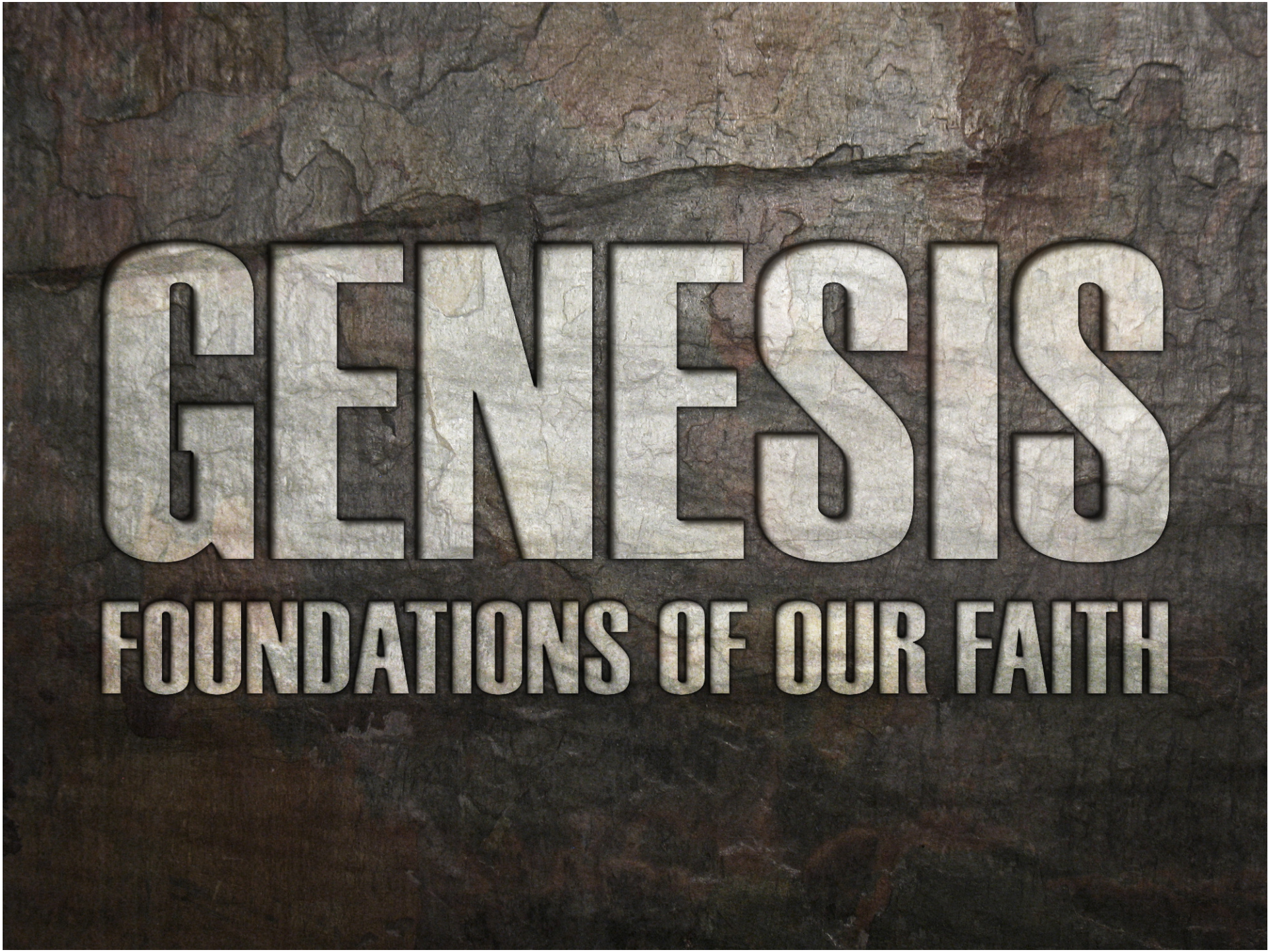

GENESIS
FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

Sarah's Death and Burial at Machpelah

Genesis 23:1-20

GENESIS

Genesis 23

I. Abraham's Tears vs 1-2

II. Abraham's Testimony vs 3-6

III. Abraham's Tact vs 7-16

IV. Abraham's Tomb vs 17-20

Warren Wiersbe

GENESIS

I. Abraham's Tears vs 1-2

Vs1 Now Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah.
2 And Sarah died in Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan...

GENESIS


18a
The Land of Canaan
Abraham to Moses
GAD, etc. Tribes of Israel.
EDOM, etc Kingdoms said to have been encountered by the Israelites at the time of the settlement (13th century B.C.)
Cities mentioned in Numbers and Deuteronomy, but not in Genesis
0 10 20 Miles
0 10 20 Kilometres
THE GREAT SEA
(The Western Sea)
Sidon
Damascus
Mt. Lebanon
Mt. Hermon (Sirion, Senir)
ARAM (SYRIA)
Ijon
Tyre
Uzu
Abel
Laish (Dan)
Kanah
Beth-anath?
MAACAH
Kedesh
Achzib
Hazor
Janoah
Merom
Aduru
R. Jordan
GESHUR
BASHAN
ARGOB
Acco
Chinnereth
Sea of Chinnereth
Karnaim
Ashtaroth
Golan
Madon
Hannathon
Achshaph?
Mt. Carmel
Shimron
Japhia
Beth-yerah (Philoteria)
Yanoam
HAVVOTH-JAIR
Jokneam
Anaharath?
Edrei
Dor
Megiddo
Shunem
Taanach
Ramoth-gilead
Aruna
Beth-haggan (En-gannim)
Beth-shean
Rehob
Ham
Migdal
Ibleam
Pehel (Pella)
Gath of Sharon
Arubboth
Dothan
Yehem
Socoh
Tirzah
Plain of Sharon
Hill Country of Israel
Mt. Ebal
Mt. Gerizim
Shechem
Succoth
Penuel
Mahanaim
River Jordan
GILEAD
MANASSEH
Aphek
Joppa
Ono
Beth-dagon
Lod
Jazer
Jogbehah
Bethel (Luz)
Ai
Beth-nimrah
Rabbah
Beth-horon
Aijalon
Gezer
Gibeon
Jericho
Gilgal
Plains of Abel-shittim (Shittim)
AMMONITES
AMMON
Moab
Elealeh
Jerusalem (Salem)
Mt. Pisgah
Heshbon
Bezer?
Ekron
Beth-shemesh
Ashdod
Timnah
Bethlehem (Ephrath)
Mt. Nebo
Medeba
Goath?
Socoh
Kiriathaim
Baal-meon (Beon)
Ashkelon
Chezib
Adullam
R. Nahaliel
REUBEN
Lachish
Mamre
Ataroth
Mattanah
Eglon?
Beth-tappuah
Hebron (Kiriath-arba)
Kedemoth?
Gaza
Dibon
Aroer
Beth-eglaim (Eglaim)
R. Arnon
Debir
Yurzo
Gerar
Ziklag?
The Shephelah
Hill Country of Judah
Salt Sea (Sea of the Arabah)
Bab ed-Dra'
Ar
Sharuhen
Moladah
ARAD?
MOAB
Beer-sheba
Hormah
Arad?
Aroer
Numeira
Possible location of the cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar in the Valley of Siddim.
Rehoboth
es-Safi
Zoar
The Negeb
Ziph
Brook Zered
Ascent of Akrabbim
(Khanazir)
Fella
EDOM
Hazozon-tamar
© Access Foundation

GENESIS

Vs 2b …and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her

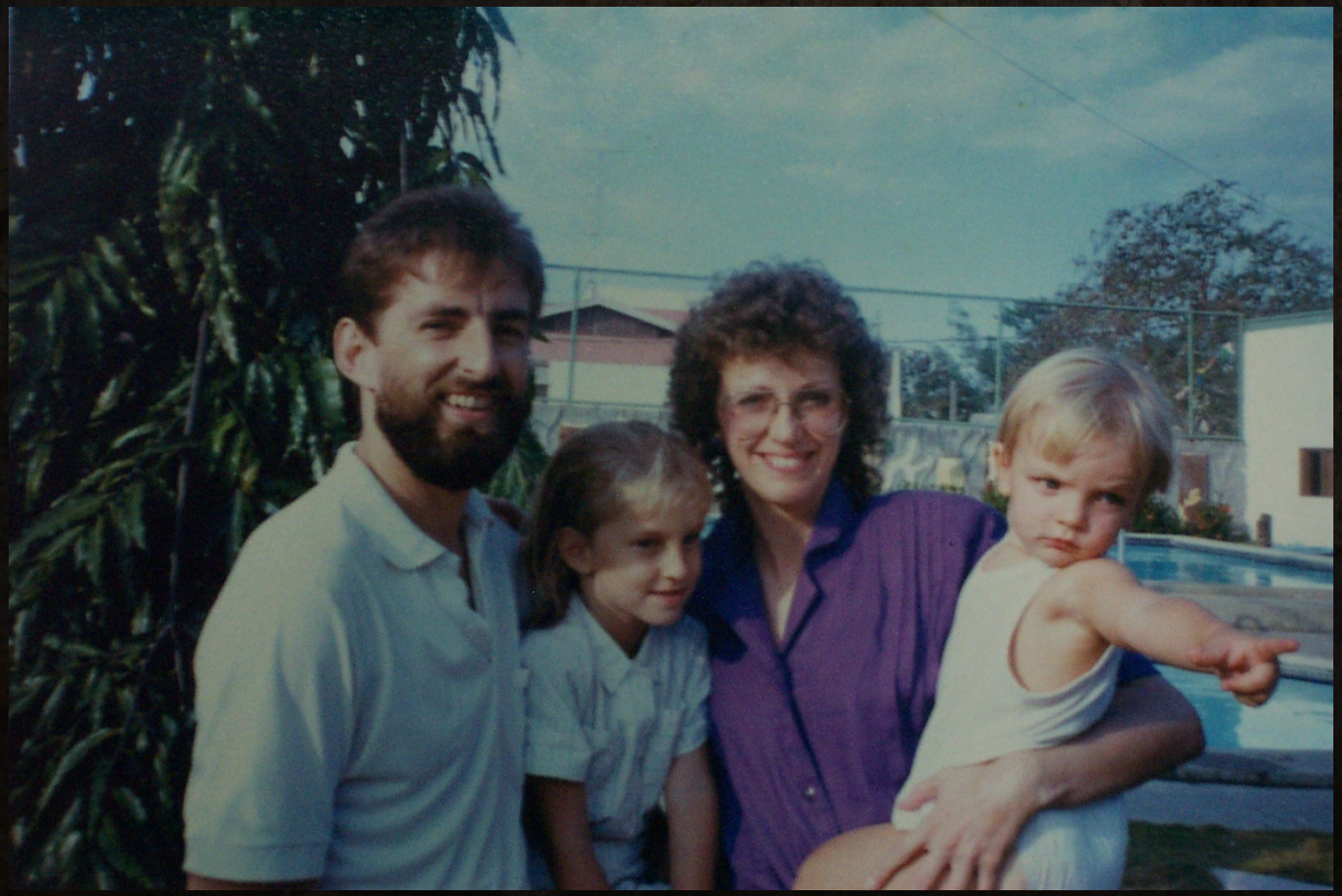
GENESIS

II. Abraham's Testimony vs 3-6

Vs 3,4 Then Abraham rose from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying, "I am a stranger and a sojourner among you; give me a burial site among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

II. Abraham's Testimony vs 3-6

Vs 5,6 And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him, "Hear us, my lord, you are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our graves; none of us will refuse you his grave for burying your dead."



John & Brenda Speers w/ Shauna & Josiah

GENESIS



American missionary shot dead by thrill-killers in Cotabato City

By IBER TUAN

COTABATO CITY—An American missionary was shot dead by a thrill-killer Tuesday afternoon, the latest victim of a town that has not been kind to clergymen in recent months.

Within hours of his death, seven people were wounded in a bombing of a beer house, and a policeman was wounded in a tiff with two men believed to be Marines.

The wave of violence swept the city when Task Force Kutawato was on red alert in preparation for independence day yesterday.

Rev. John Speers, 32, an evangelist belonging to the Church of Brethren, was shot dead in barangay Lugay-lugay by one of three suspected drug addicts.

Rev. Kevin Johnson, a fellow evangelist with whom Speers was staying as a house guest, told the *Times* that Speers had just left his home and was chatting with some new acquaintances by the roadside at about 5:30 p.m. when the gunman, armed with a homemade single-shot pistol, shot him at the back of the head.

Army Col. Herminio Limon, Anti-Kidnaping Task Force chief, identified the gunman as Tao Saraya, a suspected drug dependent who was with two other companions known only as Buan and Mohammad.

The three are now the subjects of a manhunt.

Limon said the death of Speers, a native of Washington state, is a case of thrill-killing. He brushed aside earlier radio reports that the victim's wallet and wristwatch were taken away.

Cotabato City police director Isidro Lapeña had earlier quoted eyewitnesses as saying Speers was grabbed from behind and divested of his valuables before being shot.

Johnson confirmed that all the victims' valuables were recovered.

He said Speers, who was fluent in Tagalog and could speak a little of the Maranao and Tausug dialects, came to Cotabato City on May 18 to research Maguindanao culture and languages.

The victim, his Canadian wife Brenda, 30 and children Shauna, 5, and Josiah, 2, were staying with the Johnson family at Lugay-lugay, a Moslem community of 20,000.

The victim and his family were scheduled to fly back to Manila on June 15.

Johnson said prayers and church services have started at the Alliance of Evangelical Churches here.

Speers' death comes on the heels of the abduction of Catholic missionary Fr. Yves Caroff, a Frenchman.

Caroff was eventually freed unharmed by his Moslem kidnapers after several weeks in captivity.

Johnson refused to be cowed by the violence done to his colleague. He said : "I prefer living here to Manila because the Cotabato City people are very friendly."

Two hours after Speers was shot, a grenade was hurled by an unidentified man inside Music Garden Beer house along Aionzo st. here, wounding seven civilians.

Witnesses said a lanky man in his early 40s hurled the grenade and sped off in a motorcycle.

Confined at Cotabato Regional hospital were Kasim Mendoza, 27; Meliton Kasan, 24; Ruben Manlo, 23; Mateo Yatar, 31; George Cinco, 11; and Suba Ali and Galampung Ali, no age available.

The Alis were most seriously wounded in the blast, while the others have been pronounced out of danger.

On June 9, a similar bombing attempt took place at the same establishment, but the grenade proved to be a dud.

An hour after the bombing a policeman was shot at by two men who identified themselves as Marines.

Sgt. Abid Silad was aboard a pedicab on his was from home to the police station when two men riding with him argued with him over an unspecified matter.

Silad was wounded in the right leg as he was running along Makakua street to the fire station several meters away.—With reports from Abbey Canturias

MANILA TIMES 6/13/91

Manila Times Article re: John's murder in Muslim Mindanao, June 13, 1991

GENESIS

III. Abraham's Tact vs 7-16

Vs 7-9 So Abraham rose and bowed to the people of the land, the sons of Heth. And he spoke with them, saying, "If it is your wish for me to bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and approach Ephron the son of Zohar for me, that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he owns, which is at the end of his field; for the full price let him give it to me in your presence for a burial site."



Drawing of the Cave of Machpelah
by Vincent Van Gogh, 1877

Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

GENESIS

Vs 10-13 Now Ephron was sitting among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the sons of Heth; even of all who went in at the gate of his city, saying, 11 "No, my lord, hear me; I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the presence of the sons of my people I give it to you; bury your dead." And Abraham bowed before the people of the land. And he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "If you will only please listen to me; I will give the price of the field, accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there."

Vs 14-16 Then Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him, "My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead." And Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, commercial standard.

"Why was Abraham so determined to weigh out the full price? Faith is the answer. He did it all by faith. He knew the land was his in prospect, and that… his seed would yet possess it, and until then he would be no debtor to those who were yet to be dispossessed…. While Abraham would pay them for Machpelah, he would look to God for Canaan. The sons of Heth knew well the value of the land … Abraham knew the value of the cave of Machpelah. It was worth much more to him than it was to them. The land was worth to them 400 shekels of silver, but to him it was priceless, as the earnest of an everlasting inheritance…"

C.H. Mackintosh

GENESIS

IV. Abraham’s Tomb vs 17-20

Vs 17,18 So Ephron's field, which was in Machpelah, which faced Mamre, the field and cave which was in it, and all the trees which were in the field, that were within all the confines of its border, were deeded over to Abraham for a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city.



Mosque over the cave of Machpelah in Hebron

GENESIS



Sarah’s cenotaph in the Mosque of Hebron
over the cave of Machpelah

GENESIS



Abraham’s cenotaph

GENESIS

Two crucial questions:

1) Death is coming for all of us.

"And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment," Heb. 9:27

* Am I prepared for that appointment?

GENESIS

“All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.”

Hebrews 11:13-16

GENESIS

Two Crucial Questions:

1) Death is coming for all of us. Heb. 9:27
   * Am I prepared for that appointment?

2) * What am I living for now?

"If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things above, not on things that are on the earth."

Col. 3:1,2

GENESIS


GENESIS