

## January 23-Genesis 23

As we look at Genesis 23 today, we see an account of the death and burial of Sarah. Within this story, we see a very important truth regarding faith and trust. Verse 4 shares with us that Abraham went before the Hittites and declared "I am a sojourner and a foreigner among you." In this verse, Abraham truthfully labels himself as an outsider but he is doing so on the very soil that God promised him! This verse is a reminder that Abraham is still living by faith at the end of his life. His days on earth are getting ready to come to a close while he has yet to see the fulfillment of the promise of God in the Promised Land.

This illustrates for us a very important point which is that faith in God's plan is faith in a plan that transcends our short lives. It has been said that the man or woman of God "must be willing to go to their grave having not yet been vindicated". Examples of this principle permeate our Christian heritage as many faithful pastors, missionaries, and laymen have spent their lives laboring for something that would not come to fruition until after their death.

How can a man or woman have this kind of faith? The author of Hebrews helps us here as he sheds light on Abraham's motivation for living as a foreigner in a land that was not yet his. Hebrews 11:10 says "For he (Abraham) was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God." In short, Abraham's motivation and faith was fixated on a reward that was to come! Faith that is built upon rewards in this life will crumble, but faith that is transfixed on the eternal reward to come will hold strong.

You and I can sustain anything this world throws at us if we have the same object of faith as Abraham. We know of course that our faith is founded upon the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is through the Holy Spirit indwelling us which is only possible through Jesus Christ's sacrifice that we can know that our destiny is with Him in heaven. May we cling to the hope we have in Christ and may we find, as Abraham did, that it will sustain us in this life as we look forward to the day of our great and eternal reward!