

Chayei Sarah: Bereshit / Genesis 23:1 - 25:18

(Gen 23:1 CJB) Sarah lived to be 127 years old; these were the years of Sarah's life.

(Gen 23:2 CJB) Sarah died in Kiryat-Arba, also known as Hebron, in the land of Kena`an; and Avraham came to mourn Sarah and weep for her.

(Gen 23:3 CJB) Then he got up from his dead one and said to the sons of Het,

(Gen 23:4 CJB) "I am a foreigner living as an alien with you; let me have a burial site with you, so that I can bury my dead wife."

(Gen 23:5 CJB) The sons of Het answered Avraham,

(Gen 23:6 CJB) "Listen to us, my lord. You are a prince of God among us, so choose any of our tombs to bury your dead — not one of us would refuse you his tomb for burying your dead."

(Gen 23:7 CJB) Avraham got up, bowed before the people of the land, the sons of Het,

(Gen 23:8 CJB) and spoke with them. "If it is your desire to help me bury my dead, then listen to me: ask `Efron the son of Tzochar

(Gen 23:9 CJB) to give me the cave of Makhpelah, which he owns, the one at the end of his field. He should sell it to me in your presence at its full value; then I will have a burial site of my own."

(Gen 23:10 CJB) `Efron the Hitti was sitting among the sons of Het, and he gave Avraham his answer in the presence of the sons of Het who belonged to the ruling council of the city:

(Gen 23:11 CJB) "No, my lord, listen to me: I'm giving you the field, with its cave — I'm giving it to you. In the presence of my people I give it to you."

(Gen 23:12 CJB) Avraham bowed before the people of the land

(Gen 23:13 CJB) and spoke to `Efron in their hearing: "Please be good enough to listen to me. I will pay the price of the field; accept it from me, and I will bury my dead there."

(Gen 23:14 CJB) But `Efron answered Avraham,

(Gen 23:15 CJB) "My lord, listen to me. A plot of land worth 400 silver shekels — what is that between me and you? Just bury your dead."

(Gen 23:16 CJB) Avraham got the point of what `Efron had said, so he weighed out for `Efron the amount of money he had specified in the presence of the sons of Het, 400 silver shekels of the weight accepted among merchants [*ten pounds*].

(Gen 23:17 CJB) Thus the field of `Efron in Makhpelah, which is by Mamre — the field, its cave and all the trees in and around it — were deeded

(Gen 23:18 CJB) to Avraham as his possession in the presence of the sons of Het who belonged to the ruling council of the city.

(Gen 23:19 CJB) Then Avraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Makhpelah, by Mamre, also known as Hebron, in the land of Kena`an.

(Gen 23:20 CJB) The field and its cave had been purchased by Avraham from the sons of Het as a burial-site which would belong to him.

(Gen 24:1 CJB) By now Avraham was old, advanced in years; and Adonai had blessed Avraham in everything.

(Gen 24:2 CJB) Avraham said to the servant who had served him the longest, who was in charge of all he owned, "Put your hand under my thigh;

(Gen 24:3 CJB) because I want you to swear by Adonai, God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not choose a wife for my son from among the women of the Kena`ani, among whom I am living;

(Gen 24:4 CJB) but that you will go to my homeland, to my kinsmen, to choose a wife for my son Yitz'chak."

(Gen 24:5 CJB) The servant replied, "Suppose the woman isn't willing to follow me to this land. Must I then bring your son back to the land from which you came?"

(Gen 24:6 CJB) Avraham said to him, "See to it that you don't bring my son back there.

(Gen 24:7 CJB) Adonai, the God of heaven — who took me away from my father's house and away from the land I was born in, who spoke to me and swore to me, 'I will give this land to your descendants' — he will send his angel ahead of you; and you are to bring a wife for my son from there.

(Gen 24:8 CJB) But if the woman is unwilling to follow you, then you are released from your obligation under my oath. Just don't bring my son back there."

(Gen 24:9 CJB) The servant put his hand under the thigh of Avraham his master and swore to him concerning the matter.

(Gen 24:10 CJB) Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and all kinds of gifts from his master, got up and went to Aram-Naharayim, to Nachor's city.

(Gen 24:11 CJB) Toward evening, when the women go out to draw water, he had the camels kneel down outside the city by the well.

(Gen 24:12 CJB) He said, "Adonai, God of my master Avraham, please let me succeed today; and show your grace to my master Avraham.

(Gen 24:13 CJB) Here I am, standing by the spring, as the daughters of the townsfolk come out to draw water.

(Gen 24:14 CJB) I will say to one of the girls, 'Please lower your jug, so that I can drink.' If she answers, 'Yes, drink; and I will water your camels as well,' then let her be the one you intend for your servant Yitz'chak. This is how I will know that you have shown grace to my master."

(Gen 24:15 CJB) Before he had finished speaking, Rivkah the daughter of B'tu'el son of Milkah the wife of Nachor Avraham's brother, came out with her jug on her shoulder.

(Gen 24:16 CJB) The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, never having had sexual relations with any man. She went down to the spring, filled her jug and came up.

(Gen 24:17 CJB) The servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a sip of water from your jug to drink."

(Gen 24:18 CJB) "Drink, my lord," she replied, and immediately lowered her jug onto her arm and let him drink.

(Gen 24:19 CJB) When she was through letting him drink, she said, "I will also draw water for your camels until they have drunk their fill."

(Gen 24:20 CJB) She quickly emptied her jug into the trough, then ran again to the well to draw water, and kept on drawing water for all his camels.

(Gen 24:21 CJB) The man gazed at her in silence, waiting to find out whether Adonai had made his trip successful or not.

(Gen 24:22 CJB) When the camels were done drinking, the man took a gold nose-ring weighing one-fifth of an ounce and two gold bracelets weighing four ounces

(Gen 24:23 CJB) and asked, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?"

(Gen 24:24 CJB) She answered, "I am the daughter of B'tu'el the son Milkah bore to Nachor,"

(Gen 24:25 CJB) adding, "We have plenty of straw and fodder, and room for staying overnight."

(Gen 24:26 CJB) The man bowed his head and prostrated himself before Adonai.

(Gen 24:27 CJB) Then he said, "Blessed be Adonai, God of my master Avraham, who has not abandoned his faithful love for my master; because Adonai has guided me to the house of my master's kinsmen."

(Gen 24:28 CJB) The girl ran off and told her mother's household what had happened.

(Gen 24:29 CJB) Rivkah had a brother named Lavan. When he saw the nose-ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists besides, and when he heard his sister Rivkah's report of what the man had said to her, he ran out to the spring and found the man standing there by the camels.

(Gen 24:31 CJB) "Come on in," he said, "you whom Adonai has blessed! Why are you standing outside when I have made room in the house and prepared a place for the camels?"

(Gen 24:32 CJB) So the man went inside, and while the camels were being unloaded and provided straw and fodder, water was brought for him to wash his feet and the feet of the men with him.

(Gen 24:33 CJB) But when a meal was set before him, he said, "I won't eat until I say what I have to say." Lavan said, "Speak."

(Gen 24:34 CJB) He said, "I am Avraham's servant.

(Gen 24:35 CJB) Adonai has greatly blessed my master, so that he has grown wealthy. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys.

(Gen 24:36 CJB) Sarah my master's wife bore my master a son when she was old, and he has given him everything he has.

(Gen 24:37 CJB) My master made me swear, saying, 'You are not to choose a wife for my son from among the women of the Kena`ani, among whom I am living;

(Gen 24:38 CJB) rather, you are to go to my father's house, to my kinsmen, to choose a wife for my son.'

(Gen 24:39 CJB) I said to my master, 'Suppose the woman isn't willing to follow me.'

(Gen 24:40 CJB) Avraham answered me, 'Adonai, in whose presence I live, will send his angel with you to make your trip successful; and you are to pick a wife for my son from my kinsmen in my father's house;

(Gen 24:41 CJB) this will release you from your obligation under my oath. But if, when you come to my kinsmen, they refuse to give her to you, this too will release you from my oath.'

(Gen 24:42 CJB) "So today, I came to the spring and said, 'Adonai, God of my master Avraham, if you are causing my trip to succeed in its purpose,

(Gen 24:43 CJB) then, here I am, standing by the spring. I will say to one of the girls coming out to draw water, "Let me have a sip of water from your jug."

(Gen 24:44 CJB) If she answers, "Yes, drink; and I will water your camels as well," then let her be the woman you intend for my master's son.'

(Gen 24:45 CJB) And even before I had finished speaking to my heart, there came Rivkah, going out with her jug on her shoulder; she went down to the spring and drew water. When I said to her, 'Please let me have a drink,'

(Gen 24:46 CJB) she immediately lowered the jug from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will water your camels as well.' So I drank, and she had the camels drink too.

(Gen 24:47 CJB) "I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' and she answered, 'The daughter of B'tu'el son of Nachor, whom Milkah bore to him.' Then I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists,

(Gen 24:48 CJB) bowed my head, prostrated myself before Adonai and blessed Adonai, God of my master Avraham, for having led me in the right way to obtain my master's brother's [*grand*]daughter for his son.

(Gen 24:49 CJB) "So now if you people intend to show grace and truth to my master, tell me. But if not, tell me, so that I can turn elsewhere."

(Gen 24:50 CJB) Lavan and B'tu'el replied, "Since this comes from Adonai, we can't say anything to you either bad or good.

(Gen 24:51 CJB) Rivkah is here in front of you; take her and go. Let her be your master's son's wife, as Adonai has said."

(Gen 24:52 CJB) When Avraham's servant heard what they said, he prostrated himself on the ground to Adonai.

(Gen 24:53 CJB) Then the servant brought out silver and gold jewelry, together with clothing, and gave them to Rivkah. He also gave valuable gifts to her brother and mother.

(Gen 24:54 CJB) He and his men then ate and drank and stayed the night. In the morning they got up; and he said, "Send me off to my master."

(Gen 24:55 CJB) Her brother and mother said, "Let the girl stay with us a few days, at least ten. After that, she will go."

(Gen 24:56 CJB) He answered them, "Don't delay me, since Adonai has made my trip successful, but let me go back to my master."

(Gen 24:57 CJB) They said, "We will call the girl and see what she says."

(Gen 24:58 CJB) They called Rivkah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" and she replied, "I will."

(Gen 24:59 CJB) So they sent their sister Rivkah away, with her nurse, Avraham's servant and his men.

(Gen 24:60 CJB) They blessed Rivkah with these words: "Our sister, may you be the mother of millions, and may your descendants possess the cities of those who hate them."

(Gen 24:61 CJB) Then Rivkah and her maids mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rivkah and went on his way.

(Gen 24:62 CJB) Meanwhile, Yitz'chak, one evening after coming along the road from Be'er-Lachai-Ro'i — he was living in the Negev —

(Gen 24:63 CJB) went out walking in the field; and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching.

(Gen 24:64 CJB) Rivkah too looked up; and when she saw Yitz'chak, she quickly dismounted the camel.

(Gen 24:65 CJB) She said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" When the servant replied, "It's my master," she took her veil and covered herself.

(Gen 24:66 CJB) The servant told Yitz'chak everything he had done.

(Gen 24:67 CJB) Then Yitz'chak brought her into his mother Sarah's tent and took Rivkah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. Thus was Yitz'chak comforted for the loss of his mother.

(Gen 25:1 CJB) Avraham took another wife, whose name was K'turah.

(Gen 25:2 CJB) She bore him Zimran, Yokshan, Medan, Midyan, Yishbak; and Shuach.

(Gen 25:3 CJB) Yokshan fathered Sh'va and D'dan. The sons of D'dan were Ashurim, L'tushim and L'umim.

(Gen 25:4 CJB) The sons of Midyan were `Eifah, `Efer, Hanokh, Avida and Elda`ah. All these were descendants of K'turah.

(Gen 25:5 CJB) Avraham gave everything he owned to Yitz'chak.

(Gen 25:6 CJB) But to the sons of the concubines he made grants while he was still living and sent them off to the east, to the land of Kedem, away from Yitz'chak his son.

(Gen 25:7 CJB) This is how long Avraham lived: 175 years.

(Gen 25:8 CJB) Then Avraham breathed his last, dying at a ripe old age, an old man full of years; and he was gathered to his people.

(Gen 25:9 CJB) Yitz'chak and Yishma`el his sons buried him in the cave of Makhpelah, in the field of `Efron the son of Tzochar the Hitti, by Mamre,

(Gen 25:10 CJB) the field which Avraham purchased from the sons of Het. Avraham was buried there with Sarah his wife.

(Gen 25:11 CJB) After Avraham died, God blessed Yitz'chak his son, and Yitz'chak lived near Be'er-Lachai-Ro'i.

(Gen 25:12 CJB) Here is the genealogy of Yishma`el, Avraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian woman bore to Avraham.

(Gen 25:13 CJB) These are the names of the sons of Yishma`el, listed in the order of their birth. The firstborn of Yishma`el was N'vayot; followed by Kedar, Adbe'el, Mivsam,

(Gen 25:14 CJB) Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

(Gen 25:15 CJB) Hadad, Teima, Y'tur, Nafish and Kedmah.

(Gen 25:16 CJB) These are the sons of Yishma`el, and these are their names, according to their settlements and camps, twelve tribal rulers.

(Gen 25:17 CJB) This is how long Yishma`el lived: 137 years. Then he breathed his last, died and was gathered to his people.

(Gen 25:18 CJB) Yishma`el's sons lived between Havilah and Shur, near Egypt as you go toward Ashur; he settled near all his kinsmen.

Haftarah Hayyei-Sarah: M'lakhim Alef (I Kings) 1:1-31

(1Ki 1:1 CJB) King David grew old, the years took their toll, and he couldn't get warm even when they covered him with bedclothes.

(1Ki 1:2 CJB) His servants said to him, "Let us try to find a young virgin for my lord the king. She can wait on the king and be a companion for him, and she can lie next to you, so that my lord the king will get some heat."

(1Ki 1:3 CJB) After looking through all of Isra'el's territory for a beautiful girl, they found Avishag the Shunamit and brought her to the king.

(1Ki 1:4 CJB) The girl was very beautiful and became a companion for the king. She took care of him, but the king did not have sexual relations with her.

(1Ki 1:5 CJB) Adoniyah the son of Haggit was beginning to claim that he would be king; to this end he organized chariots and horsemen, with fifty men to run ahead of him.

(1Ki 1:6 CJB) (His father had never in his life confronted him by asking, "Why are you behaving this way?" Moreover, he was a very handsome man; he was born next after Avshalom.)

(1Ki 1:7 CJB) He conferred with Yo'av the son of Tz'ruyah and Evyatar the cohen; and they both supported Adoniyah.

(1Ki 1:8 CJB) But Tzadok the cohen, B'nayah the son of Y'hoyada, Natan the prophet, Shim`i, Re`i and David's elite guard were not on Adoniyah's side.

(1Ki 1:9 CJB) One day Adoniyah killed sheep, oxen and fattened calves at the Stone of Zochelet, by `Ein-Rogel. He summoned all his brothers the king's sons, and all the men of Y'hudah the king's servants;

(1Ki 1:10 CJB) but he did not summon Natan the prophet, B'nayah, the elite guard or Shlomo his brother.

(1Ki 1:11 CJB) Natan went to Bat-Sheva the mother of Shlomo and said, "Haven't you heard that Adoniyah the son of Haggit has become king without the knowledge of David our lord?"

(1Ki 1:12 CJB) Now, come, please let me give you advice, so that you can save both your own life and that of your son Shlomo.

(1Ki 1:13 CJB) Go, get in to see King David, and say to him, 'My lord, king, didn't you swear to your servant, "Your son Shlomo will be king after me; he will sit on my throne"? So why is Adoniyah king?'

(1Ki 1:14 CJB) Right then, while you are still talking with the king, I will also come in after you and confirm what you are saying."

(1Ki 1:15 CJB) Bat-Sheva went in to the king in his room. (The king was very old; Avishag the Shunamit was in attendance on the king.)

(1Ki 1:16 CJB) Bat-Sheva bowed, prostrating herself to the king. The king asked, "What do you want?"

(1Ki 1:17 CJB) She answered him, "My lord, you swore by Adonai your God to your servant, 'Your son Shlomo will be king after me; he will sit on my throne.'

(1Ki 1:18 CJB) But now, here is Adoniyah ruling as king; and you, my lord the king, don't know anything about it.

(1Ki 1:19 CJB) He has killed oxen, fattened calves and sheep in great numbers; and he has summoned all the sons of the king, Evyatar the cohen and Yo'av the commander of the army; but he didn't summon Shlomo your servant.

(1Ki 1:20 CJB) As for you, my lord the king, all Isra'el is watching you; they are waiting for you to tell them who is to sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.

(1Ki 1:21 CJB) If you don't, then, when my lord the king sleeps with his ancestors, I and my son Shlomo will be considered criminals."

(1Ki 1:22 CJB) Right then, while she was still talking with the king, Natan the prophet entered.

(1Ki 1:23 CJB) They told the king, "Natan the prophet is here." After coming into the king's presence, he prostrated himself before the king with his face to the ground.

(1Ki 1:24 CJB) Natan said, "My lord king, did you say, 'Adoniyah is to be king after me; he will sit on my throne'?"

(1Ki 1:25 CJB) For he has gone down today and killed oxen, fattened calves and sheep in great numbers; and he has summoned all the king's sons, the

commanders of the army and Evyatar the cohen; right now they are eating and drinking in his presence and proclaiming, 'Long live King Adoniyah!'

(1Ki 1:26 CJB) But he didn't summon me your servant, or Tzadok the cohen, or B'nayah the son of Y'hoyada or your servant Shlomo.

(1Ki 1:27 CJB) Is this authorized by my lord the king without your having told your servant who would sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?"

(1Ki 1:28 CJB) King David answered by saying, "Summon Bat-Sheva to me." She entered the king's presence and stood before the king.

(1Ki 1:29 CJB) Then the king swore an oath: "As Adonai lives, who has delivered me from all adversity,

(1Ki 1:30 CJB) as I swore to you by Adonai the God of Isra'el, 'Your son Shlomo will be king after me; he will sit on my throne in my place,' so will I do today."

(1Ki 1:31 CJB) Bat-Sheva bowed with her face to the ground, prostrating herself to the king, and said, "Let my lord King David live forever."

B'rit Hadashah suggested readings for Parashah Hayyei-Sarah:

Mattityahu (Matthew) 8:19-22; 27:3-10; Luke 9:57-62

(Mat 8:19 CJB) A Torah-teacher approached and said to him, "Rabbi, I will follow you wherever you go."

(Mat 8:20 CJB) Yeshua said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds flying about have nests, but the Son of Man has no home of his own."

(Mat 8:21 CJB) Another of the talmidim said to him, "Sir, first let me go and bury my father."

(Mat 8:22 CJB) But Yeshua replied, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

(Mat 27:3 CJB) When Y'hudah, who had betrayed him, saw that Yeshua had been condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the head cohanim and elders,

(Mat 27:4 CJB) saying, "I sinned in betraying an innocent man to death."
"What is that to us?" they answered. "That's your problem."

(Mat 27:5 CJB) Hurling the pieces of silver into the sanctuary, he left; then he went off and hanged himself.

(Mat 27:6 CJB) The head cohanim took the silver coins and said, "It is prohibited to put this into the Temple treasury, because it is blood money."

(Mat 27:7 CJB) So they decided to use it to buy the potter's field as a cemetery for foreigners.

(Mat 27:8 CJB) This is how it came to be called the Field of Blood, a name it still bears.

(Mat 27:9 CJB) Then what Yirmeyahu the prophet spoke was fulfilled, "And they took the thirty silver coins, which was the price the people of Isra'el had agreed to pay for him,

(Mat 27:10 CJB) and used them to buy the potter's field, just as the Lord directed me."

(Luk 9:57 CJB) As they were traveling on the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

(Luk 9:58 CJB) Yeshua answered him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds flying about have nests, but the Son of Man has no home of his own."

(Luk 9:59 CJB) To another he said, "Follow me!" but the man replied, "Sir, first let me go away and bury my father."

(Luk 9:60 CJB) Yeshua said, "Let the dead bury their own dead; you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God!"

(Luk 9:61 CJB) Yet another said, "I will follow you, sir, but first let me say good-by to the people at home."

(Luk 9:62 CJB) To him Yeshua said, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and keeps looking back is fit to serve in the Kingdom of God."