

STUDY TWENTY

ALIENS AND STRANGERS

Genesis 23

Introduction

In this story Abraham's beloved wife Sarah dies. We all have to go through the death of a loved-one from time-to-time. It is encouraging that the great men and women of the Bible were not spared these things but left us good examples of how to deal with them.

Questions For Discussion

1.a) What did Abraham do when Sarah died (v.2)?

b) What was Abraham's view of death? (See Heb. 11:13-16)

c) Is it all right to weep when a loved-one dies?

d) Does it make any difference if the loved-one is a believer?
(See 1Th. 4:13-18)

2.a) What did Abraham want to do with Sarah's body (v.4)?

b) Must followers of Christ bury their dead relatives or is there freedom in this matter?

3. Review Sarah's life.

a) What qualities did she show in her character? (See Is. 51:1-2
& 1Pe. 3:3-6)

b) In what ways can we follow her example today?

4.a) What can we learn about business practice from Abraham's example?

b) What should we do if we get cheated? (See Ro. 12:17-21)

c) Why did Abraham make sure that others witnessed the transaction (vv.16-18)? (See also Heb. 11:16)

d) Why is it important that business deals are done in the open?

5.a) What is the city that God has prepared for His people? (See Heb. 11:16)

b) What should our attitude be to this world (v4)? (See also Heb. 11:13)

For Further Thought And Action

Think about how you can improve your relationships with your relatives and friends. Pray for them by name.

Memory Verse

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

Hebrews 11:13