



# Calvary of Albuquerque

Genesis 22:15-23:20 - Genesis 22:15-23:20

From the Series, Genesis

By Pastor Skip Heitzig

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

Death is a fact of life; the statistics show that every one of us will die; the ratio is 1:1. Let's consider the suffering and sorrow Abraham endured through the near sacrifice of his son Isaac and the death of his wife Sarah. We'll discover that the path of sorrow can also be the road to deeper fellowship with the Lord.

## DETAILED NOTES

### I. Review

Mount Moriah (near Salem, later Jebus, now Jerusalem) is where Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac, and where Jesus was sacrificed. The Temple (Solomon's, Nehemiah's, Herod's) was built on the slope of the hill, not the top. Golgotha is at the top of the mountain. Abraham was called to sacrifice his only begotten son, dead in his mind for three days, at the top of Mount Moriah picture of Christ, God's only begotten Son, dead for three days at the top of Mount Moriah.

### II. Fellowship with God - (to share like experience with another)

- A. Abraham entered deepest fellowship with the Lord in suffering
  - 1. Power of the resurrection, fellowship of suffering
  - 2. Both Abraham and God know what it's like to sacrifice a son.
- B. Our times of suffering are an opportunity to fellowship with God
- C. See how a man could love God
- D. See how God could love men

### III. The Obedience of Faith

- A. Because you have obeyed (first mention of obey in the Bible)
  - 1. True faith
  - 2. Not what he felt or believed
  - 3. What he did
- B. Abraham's seed
  - 1. Natural seed - physical descendants (Romans 8, 9, 10)
  - 2. Natural-spiritual seed - Jewish believers
  - 3. Spiritual seed - non-Jewish believers
  - 4. Ultimate Seed - Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16)
- C. Blessing through the seed
  - 1. No Jewish people, no Bible
  - 2. No Jewish people, no 10 Commandments
  - 3. No Jewish people, no Savior
  - 4. No Jewish people, no salvation
- D. Abraham Returns - no mention of Isaac until he returns with his gentile bride
- E. Record of Nahor's Sons

### IV. Death of a Princess

- A. Sarai - contentious, Sarah - princess
  - 1. She was 127 years old
  - 2. Mother of the Jewish nation
  - 3. Only woman whose age, death, burial, and burial place mentioned in the Bible
  - 4. Example to women (Isaiah 51:2, 1 Peter 3)
- B. Language
  - 1. Straightforward
    - a. Death is a fact of life
    - b. Learn to talk about it openly
  - 2. Personal - Sarah mentioned by name
  - 3. Not in the hands of specialists
- C. Longevity
  - 1. Antediluvian
    - a. Adam 930 years
    - b. Seth 912 years
    - c. Methuselah 969 years
    - d. Vapor canopy
  - 2. Sarah looked good at 90



- D. Abraham weeps for Sarah
  - 1. First recorded tears in the Bible
  - 2. Weeping continues in history until Revelation
  - 3. Tears
    - a. We are designed with the capacity to cry
    - b. Time to weep, laugh, mourn, dance
    - c. To not cry defies the Creator
  - 4. Cultural to take the dead back to place of origin
  - 5. Abraham stays and indicates this is his new home, believes promises of God
- E. Abraham stood up - time to move on
  - 1. Hebrew culture to mourn for 30 days
  - 2. Grief is good
  - 3. Prolonged grief is not good
- F. Foreigner and visitor among you
  - 1. Abraham is speaking spiritually, he's moving toward eternity (Hebrews 11)
  - 2. Land for his descendants
  - 3. Believers sorrow differently (if our loved ones know Jesus we know where they are) (1 Thessalonians 4:13)
- G. Abraham buys land for burial
  - 1. The land is for future generations
  - 2. Indicates faith in promise of God
  - 3. Cultural Custom - Bargaining
  - 4. 400 shekels - exorbitant price
  - 5. Hittite law
    - a. Frowned upon to sell land to a foreigner
    - b. If you sell only a portion, you still have to pay taxes on entire amount
- H. Cave of Machpelah - Family plot
  - I. End of life
    - 1. Get comfortable with your own death
    - 2. Get your house in order
    - 3. Clear strained relationships
    - 4. Build friendships now
    - 5. Spiritual preparation
      - a. Are you ready to stand before Holy God?
      - b. Are you sure if you die you will be with God in heaven?

Figures Referenced: Princess Diana, Billy Graham

Cross References: Genesis 24, Isaiah 51:2, Romans 8,9,10, Galatians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Hebrews 11, 1 Peter 3