

DEATH COMES FOR US ALL



INTRODUCTION

Abraham learned through loss, joy, pain, and hope that their truly is only one hope... and that hope doesn't make everything turn out the way we want. People still die, the world may seem to pass you by...but *My AND YOUR help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth...*

DISCUSSION

What is the most profound loss you have ever suffered?
How did it affect you?

EXPLANATION

How does God help us in our time of grief?
How often do people take God for granted and treat Him simply like "the help?"
Give some examples of what that looks like.

APPLICATION

Read Matthew Psalm 22:19 and Psalm 27:7-10
How can we understand that God is our help, but stop treating Him like the help?
Why is it important to realize that we need help?

MISSION

How can you encourage those around you to see that our *help comes from the Lord*?

HOME WORK FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read Genesis 34 and ask yourself these questions:
Does fear and worry cause you to try and rush God's plan?
What does it mean to die with Christ that we may live?

Week 37

Family & Group Discussion

37. DEATH COMES FOR US ALL

Genesis 22:20-23:20

Genesis 23:2
Genesis 22:20-24
Genesis 23:1-20
2 Samuel 24:24
Psalm 4:8
Psalm 121
Genesis 13:14
Isaiah 40:4
John 10:10

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pumpkin Killing
10.28.12 at 1p

Excel Class
10.20 - 10a

Newcomer Party
11.2.12 at 7p



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Genesis 23:2 “And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.”

Chapter 22 of Genesis ends with a bizarre genealogy. The fact that the number of names in the list is twelve suggests that the writer intended to draw a comparison with the twelve sons of Jacob or the twelve sons of Ishmael (in 25:12-15). The central purpose of listing the names is to introduce into the narrative the source of the future bride of Isaac, Rebekah (v. 23), and to show that she was of the lineage of Milcah and not of her concubine (v. 24).

This section also wraps up Abraham and Sarah with the death of Sarah.

In Chapter 23 Sarah dies in Hebron, and Abraham came there to mourn her death (v. 2). Although the text is not clear, it appears that he came from Beersheba where he had been dwelling at the close of chapter 22. Through the death of Sarah, Chapter 23 shows how Abraham first came into legal possession of a parcel of land in Canaan (the Promised Land). Through what appears to be a hard bargain, Abraham bought not only a cave in which to bury his wife, but also a large field with many trees. The chapter shows that Abraham came by this property fairly.

Later, the field and particularly the cave in it, became an important burial site for the patriarchs and their wives. Not only were Sarah and Abraham were buried but also Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, and Jacob.

As Moses write Genesis he is wandering in the desert and uses this narrative to show his people that there is every expectation that they will possess the Promised land. Abraham purchased only a portion of the land that would some day belong to his seed. This small purchase embodied the hope in God's promise that one day in the future it would all belong to him and his descendants.

Psalm 121 *I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.*

- ***“I lift up my eyes...”*** It means to notice something. It means to become aware of the possibilities. It means to find your attention grabbed or arrested.

I lift my eyes is a vivid Hebrew way of expressing one of the greatest of human freedoms that nobody can take away from you: the freedom to decide where you will place your mind; the freedom to focus your attention.

It's learned behavior.

- ***“I lift up my eyes to the hills...”*** In the ancient world, if you wanted to travel, hills were problems. They got in the way. They were trouble. This is why Isaiah says in the day of the Lord God straightens (flattens) everything out...Is 40:4 *Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;* Hills were problems.

Our word *Worry* comes from the German word *wuergen*, which originally meant to strangle, or constrict, or choke. Worry chokes the life out of us.

Our help comes from the Lord. Not from the hills. Not from me. From the Lord.

The word *help* is used over 200 times in the Bible, most often to describe God. God is our help...it is a humbling thing for God to be willing to be known as the help. It is humbling for us as well; for a self-sufficient people in a culture of performance, because it says WE are the kind of creatures who need help.

We need to recognize that we are *not in control...of anything*.

From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Abraham learned through loss, joy, pain, and hope that there truly is only one hope...and that hope doesn't make everything turn out the way we want. People still die, the world may seem to pass us by...but *OUR help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth...*