

Beit Chachamin

PARSHAT CHAYEI SARAH

14TH NOVEMBER, 2025

COME & LEARN

THE BIG RECAP [PARSHA SUMMARY]

1 - Sarah dies at age 127 in the land of Canaan and Abraham mourns her. He requests to purchase a burial site from the Hittites, specifically the cave of Machpelah belonging to Ephron son of Zohar. Ephron offers the field and cave, but Abraham insists on paying the full price, which Ephron sets at four hundred shekels of silver.

2 - After Sarah's burial, Abraham, now in his old age, summons his servant and tasks him with finding a wife for his son. He instructs the servant that the wife must not be a Canaanite and must come to live with his son in the land of Canaan where Isaac lives.

3 - The servant travels with camels and gifts to find a wife for Isaac. He prays for guidance in making the right choice. A young woman named Rebekah approaches him and offers water to him and his camels. In return, he gives her jewelry. He asks whose child she is and learns that she is the daughter of Bethuel and therefore Abraham's great-niece. She invites him to stay with her family for the night.

4 - Rebekah runs home and tells her family what happened. They welcome the servant, and he explains why he has come. The family agrees to the marriage.

5 - After a night of celebrating Rebekah and Isaac's betrothal, the servant insists on returning to Abraham and Isaac. Rebekah's family asks if she is ready to go, and she agrees. As they approach, Isaac looks up from the field and sees the camels coming. Rebekah asks the servant who is in the field, and he says it is his master. Isaac learns what the servant has done.

6 - Abraham remarries, and his new wife, Keturah, bears him six children. He lives to be 175 years old and dies surrounded by his people. Ishmael and Isaac bury him in the Cave of Machpelah.

7 - The text lists all of Ishmael's descendants. He has twelve sons who become chieftains of their tribes. Ishmael lives to be 137 years old.

PARSHAT CHAYEI SARAH

This week's parsha records three deaths that conclude the story of Abraham and the founding of the Jewish people as we know it.

DESCRIPTION OF SARAH'S DEATH (GENESIS 23:1-2):

**וַיְהִי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה מֵאָה שָׁנָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה
וַתָּמָת שָׂרָה בְּקִרְיַת אַרְבַּע הוּא חֶבְרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיְבֹא אַבְרָהָם לְסַפֵּד לְשָׂרָה וּלְבַכְתָּהּ:**

Sarah's lifetime—the span of Sarah's life—came to one hundred and twenty-seven years. Sarah died in Kiriath-arba—now Hebron—in the land of Canaan; and Abraham proceeded to mourn for Sarah and to bewail her.

DESCRIPTION OF ABRAHAM'S DEATH (GENESIS 25:7-9):

**וְאֵלֶּה יְמֵי שְׁנֵי־חַיֵּי אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר־חִי מֵאֵת שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה וַחֲמֵשׁ שָׁנִים:
וַיָּגוּעַ וַיָּמָת אַבְרָהָם בְּשִׁיבָה טוֹבָה זָקֵן וְשִׁבְעַת וַיֵּאָסֶף אֶל־עַמּוּיוֹ:
וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ יִצְחָק וַיִּשְׁמַעְאֵל בְּנָיו אֶל־מַעְרַת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה אֶל־שָׂדֵה עֶפְרָן בֶּן־צֹחַר הַחִתִּי אֲשֶׁר עַל־פְּנֵי מַמְרָא:**

This was the total span of Abraham's life: one hundred and seventy-five years. And Abraham breathed his last, dying at a good ripe age, old and contented; and he was gathered to his kin. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre,

DESCRIPTION OF ISHMAEL'S DEATH (GENESIS 25:17):

וְאֵלֶּה שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי יִשְׁמַעְאֵל מֵאֵת שָׁנָה וְשָׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים וַיָּגוּעַ וַיָּמָת וַיֵּאָסֶף אֶל־עַמּוּיוֹ

These were the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty-seven years; then he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his kin.

These three deaths (Sarah, Abraham, and Ishmael) mark the closing of the generation that founded the Jewish people. Between the first and last of these deaths, the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah ensures the nation's continuity and fulfillment of the covenantal promise. This week's parsha thus solidifies the transition from the patriarch Abraham to the next generation, affirming that the story of the Jewish people will carry on beyond him.