

# Abraham's Priorities

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Purpose: to encourage God's people to have heavenly priorities

What have we seen so far in the book of Genesis?

- God creates a perfect environment for Adam and the human race
- Through Adam, sin enters the world
- The world becomes corrupt and must be judged, yet God saves it through Noah
- Through Noah's three sons the world is once again inhabited.
- Man continues to become corrupt, so God destroys the tower of Babel and slows down their progress by confusing their languages.
- Once again, God uses a man who will trust him, Abraham. We have been reviewing his life and seeing what it takes to make a difference in a corrupt world.

What are your priorities? What are you really living for?

- Work/Job
- Wealth/Financial Security
- Family

Listen to what Solomon says on the subject:

*Ecclesiastes 3:9-11*

*9 - What profit has the worker from that in which he labors?*

*10 - I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied.*

*11 - He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.*

Abraham is known as one of the greatest of Old Testament men and considered the father of all who believe. What made him so great? Simply that he believed God and made God's priorities his priorities. In Genesis 22 and 23 there are three things mentioned that might be easily skipped over but show what was important to Abraham:

- The Genealogy of his brother Nahor – (22:19-24)
- The death of his wife Sarah – (23:1,2)
- The purchase of a burial place – (23:3-20)

The genealogy of Nahor (22:19-24): what is so important about this?

- It tells us where Abraham got his son's wife.

The death of Sarah (23:1,2): what can we observe and learn from this?

- Sarah is the only woman in the bible whose age, death and burial are mentioned.
  - Sarah is mentioned as a great woman of faith in the book of Hebrews (11:11)

- Sarah is spoken of as an example of faith and submissiveness by the Apostle Peter (1 Peter 3:5,6)
- Sarah became a great woman of faith and had the same priorities as her husband

The purchase of a burial place (23:3-20): what did he do and why did he do it?

- He called himself a foreigner and a visitor among them because he didn't consider this world his home
- He wanted a burial place in the land because he knew that the land was promised to him and wanted a permanent reminder for future generations
- He would not allow them to give it to him because it was important enough for everyone to know that he owned it outright.

Everything about Abraham suggests that he was a "heavenly-minded" man.

- He had worldly wealth and favour, yet he did not attach himself to the people of the land, calling himself a foreigner
- He took great care to secure a permanent burial place in the land that God has promised him.

What are your priorities?

- Putting God first makes everything beautiful in its time
  - Even difficulties have purpose
  - It gives enjoyment to the simple things of life
- Becoming heavenly-minded changes what you do
  - It affects your children, work, relationships, etc.
- Putting God first is the secret to a life of rejoicing

*Ecclesiastes 3:12-15*

*12 - I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives,*

*13 - and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor - it is the gift of God.*

*14 - I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.*

*15 - That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past.*

If you really want to be a difference maker like Abraham, have heavenly priorities.