



**Three Funerals and a Wedding
Chaye Sarah 2010
Rabbi David Levin-Kruss**

1. Breishit 23:1-2

<p>Sarah had lived to be 127 years old. These were the years of Sarah's life. Sarah died in Kiryat Arba, also known as Hebron, in the land of Canaan. Abraham came to eulogize Sarah and to weep for her.</p>	<p>וַיְהִי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה, מֵאָה שָׁנָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעַת שָׁנִים--שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה. וַתָּמָת שָׂרָה, בְּקִרְיַת אַרְבַּע הוּא חֶבְרוֹן--בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן; וַיְבֹא, אַבְרָהָם, לְסַפֵּד לְשָׂרָה, וּלְבַכָּתָהּ.</p>
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2. RSR Hirsch Breishit 23:2

The word to cry may have been written with a small bet to suggest that the full extent of his weeping was kept private. His grief was infinite but the full measure of his pain was concealed in his heart and the privacy of his home.

3. Kli Yakar Breishit 23:2

<p>Usually crying is before the eulogy and here it's the opposite...since usually mourning becomes less and as days go by the dead person is forgotten. Abraham felt the loss of this righteous woman more and more in her absence – he felt the absence of her Torah and good deeds that were lost for all generations, and this is why eulogy is written before crying.</p>	<p>בכל מקום הבכי קודם להספד וכאן מוחלפת השיטה...ונראה לפי שבכל מת, האבל הולך ומתמעט כי ברבות הימים הכל נשכח, אמנם צדקת זו בכל יום ויום הרגישו ביותר בהעדר שלה, מצד העדר תורתה ומעשיה הטובים שנאבדו לדורה, על כן הקדים ההספד לבכי.</p>
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4. Breishit 23:19

<p>Abraham then buried his wife Sarah in the cave of Machpela Field, which adjoins Mamre (also known as Hebron), in the land of Canaan.</p>	<p>וְאַחֲרֵי-כֵן קָבַר אַבְרָהָם אֶת-שָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ, אֶל-מְעַרַת שְׂדֵה הַמְּכַפְלָה עַל-פְּנֵי מַמְרָא--הוּא חֶבְרוֹן: בְּאֶרֶץ, כְּנָעַן.</p>
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5. Breishit 25:7-10

<p>This then is the account of Abraham's years. He lived a total of 175 years. Abraham breathed his last and died at a good age, old and satisfied, and he was gathered to his people. His sons, Isaac and Ishmael, buried him in Machpela Cave, in the field of Ephron son of Tsohar the Hittite, which borders Mamre. The field that Abraham purchased from the children of Heth is thus where Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried.</p>	<p>וְאַלֶּה, יְמֵי שְׁנֵי-חַיֵּי אַבְרָהָם--אֲשֶׁר-חַי: מֵאֵת שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה, וְחִמַּשׁ שָׁנִים. וַיָּגוּעַ וַיָּמָת אַבְרָהָם בְּשִׂיבָה טוֹבָה, זָקֵן וְשִׁבְעִי; וַיֵּאָסֶף, אֶל-עַמּוּיוֹ. וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ יִצְחָק וְיִשְׁמָעֵאל, בְּנָיו, אֶל-מְעַרַת הַמְּכַפְלָה: אֶל-שְׂדֵה עֶפְרוֹן בֶּן-צֹחַר, הַחִתִּי, אֲשֶׁר, עַל-פְּנֵי מַמְרָא. הַשְּׂדֵה אֲשֶׁר-קָנָה אַבְרָהָם, מֵאֵת בְּנֵי-חֵת--שָׁמָּה קָבַר אַבְרָהָם, וְשָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ.</p>
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6. Bava Batra 16b

The fact of the text placing Isaac first shows that Ishmael made way for him.	מדאקדמיה ומדאדבריה	אדבורי	אדבריה
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7. Breishit 25:17

These were the years of the life of Ishmael. He lived a total of 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people	וְאֵלֶּה, שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי יִשְׁמַעֵאל--מֵאֵת שָׁנָה, וְנָשְׁלָ שָׁיִם שָׁנָה, וְשָׁבַע שָׁנִים; וַיָּגוּעַ וַיָּמָת, וַיֵּאָסֶף אֶל-עַמּוּיוֹ.
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8. Sforno Breishit 23:2

Sarah died after Rebecca – who is fit to replace Sarah – is born, and Abraham is notified. As our sages tell us, “One righteous person does not die before another is born.”	ותמת שרה. אחר שנולדה רבקה הראויה למלאת מקום שרה ושנדע זה לאברהם מתה שרה כאמרם ז"ל שאין צדיק נפטר מן העולם אלא אם כן נולד צדיק כמותו
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9. Ha'emek Davar Breishit 23:19

Although it is clear that this is in Canaan the verse mentions that Sarah buried there to emphasize that burial anywhere in the Land is meritorious.	ופירש המקרא עוד בארץ כנען. ללמד שכלל האץ יש לה ג"כ סגולת קבורה.
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10. Breishit 24:67

And he married Rebecca. She became his wife and he loved her.	וַיִּקַּח אֶת-רֵבֶקָה וַתְּהִי-לוֹ לְאִשָּׁה, וַיֶּאֱהָבָהּ
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11. Rashi Breishit 24:67

He brought her to the tent, and behold, she was Sarah his mother; i.e., she became the likeness of Sarah his mother, for as long as Sarah was alive, a candle burned from one Sabbath eve to the next, a blessing was found in the dough, and a cloud was attached to the tent. When she died, these things ceased, and when Rebecca arrived, they resumed.	ויביאה האהלה והרי היא שרה אמו כלומר ונעשית דוגמת שרה אמו שכל זמן ששרה קיימת היה נר דלוק מע"ש לערב שבת וברכה מצויה בעיסה וענן קשור על האהל ומשמתה פסקו וכשבאת רבקה חזרו
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12. Sforno Breishit 24:67

Until now he could not be comforted, for he had loved and respected his mother so much.	כי עד הנה לא קבל עליה תנחומין לחשיבותה:
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13. Ramban Breishit 24:67

It was on account of her righteousness and the aptness of her deeds that he loved her and was comforted by her.	כי מפני צדקתה וכשרון מעשיה אהבה ונחם בה.
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