



## Chaye Sarah

*Beresheet* (Genesis) 23:1 - 25:18

The *Parshah* begins with the death of Sarah at the age of 127 in *Kiriat-arba*, now known as Hebron. After a protracted negotiation with the Hittite people living there, Abraham buys a burial site, the Cave of Machpelah. He paid the exorbitant sum of 400 shekels, far more than the land was worth, because it was his first real acquisition in the land of Israel, and he wanted to ensure that the transaction be conducted in such a way that it could never be contested.

In time, Abraham decides that a wife should be found for his son Isaac. He directs his senior servant, Eliezer, to search for a wife, cautioning him not to choose a Canaanite woman. Upon arrival in Nahor, the land of Abraham's relatives, the servant prays to G-d to direct him to the woman chosen for Isaac. Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel who is the son of Nahor, Abraham's brother, comes to the well. This is one of several episodes in the Bible where a forefather's future wife is first seen at a well. From Rebekah's words and deeds, Eliezer knows that she is the answer to his search. The servant is welcomed into Bethuel's house and after conferring with Bethuel and his son Laban, it is agreed that Rebekah will go to Canaan to become Isaac's wife.

Later, Abraham takes another wife, Keturah, who will bear him six children. Before dying, he wills all his possessions to Isaac and gives gifts to his other children. When Abraham dies, Isaac and Ishmael bury him in the Cave of Machpelah beside Sarah.

The Torah portion closes with mention of the names of Ishmael's twelve sons.



Jewish Community Center of Paramus  
E. 304 Midland Ave., Paramus NJ 07652  
Phone: (201) 262-7691 Fax: (201) 262-6516  
© 2007 Jewish Community Center of Paramus