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ABRAHAM PART 34  
THE DOWN PAYMENT

Abraham had lived several decades in Canaan when Sarah, at age 127 died. God had promised all of Canaan to him, but he had no legal ownership of any part of it. He needed to acquire some land by legal ownership as a family burial place.

Sarah died in Kir-jath-ar-ba, later named Hebron. He purchased a piece of land which included a cave that could serve for a burial site. He paid 400 shekels of silver and it was witnessed by all the key people in the area. Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah were to eventually all be buried there.

In spite of God's promise to own the entire land of Canaan, this one piece is the only land he personally would ever own. It served like a down payment or "earnest money deposit" on that promise. The promise was fulfilled hundreds of years later as the nation of Israel, his seed, descended, and took possession of Canaan.

God's promise was fulfilled in God's own timing. Abraham only got a "foretaste" of it, but his "seed" received the fullness of it.

We also must be patient when it comes to God's promises. We desire fulfillment "now," but His time might be "later." His promises are true, the "yes and amen." We must trust, believe, and be obedient to His word; it will come in His "fullness of time."