

## Genesis 23 -The Cave of Machpelah

The Cave of Machpelah is important spiritually because, like Abraham and the Patriarchs, **we must first see the Promised Land as the place of our death before we experience it as the place we inherit.** We are “buried with him in baptism” at the beginning of our spiritual journey of salvation, then raised with him to walk in the Promised Land in newness of life.

Romans 6:4 - “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cave\\_of\\_the\\_Patriarchs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cave_of_the_Patriarchs)

Genesis 23:17 - “So Ephron’s field, which was in Machpelah, which faced Mamre, the field and cave which was in it, and all the trees which were in the field, that were within all the confines of its border, were deeded over to Abraham for a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth.”

Although Abraham has been promised the whole land, he behaved respectfully toward the Hittites. But not willing to be beholden to anyone other than God, he refuses it as a gift, and they agree on a price of purchase.

The Cave of Machpelah is the first “down payment” on God’s promise regarding the land.

Today it is a series of subterranean chambers located in the heart of the old city of Hebron, revered by Jews, Muslims and Christians.

Originally enclosed by a building built by Herod, it is now called the Sanctuary of Abraham or the Ibrahimi Mosque. The Patriarchs Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and Leah are all believed to be buried there.

The only Jewish matriarch missing is Rachel, who is believed to be buried at Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem.