

~MACHPELAH (88)

(Mach-pe'lah) [from a root meaning double, possibly indicating that the cave had a double entrance or two recesses or receptacles]

- The name used with reference to a field and a cave in the vicinity of Hebron, purchased by Abraham from Ephron the Hittite for 400 silver shekels, currently \$880.
- The cave served as a burial place for Abraham's wife Sarah and for at least five others, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah.
- Then Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him. ([Genesis 23:14](#))
- My lord, listen to me. A land plot worth four hundred silver shekels, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead. ([Genesis 23:15](#))
- Accordingly Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out to Ephron the amount of silver that he had spoken in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred silver shekels current with the merchants. ([Genesis 23:16](#))
- Thus the field of Ephron that was in **Machpelah**, which is in front of Mamre, the field and the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all its boundaries round about, became confirmed ([Genesis 23:17](#))
- To Abraham as his purchased property before the eyes of the sons of Heth among all those entering the gate of his city. ([Genesis 23:18](#))
- And after that Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of **Machpelah** in front of Mamre, that is to say; Hebron, in the land of Canaan. ([Genesis 23:19](#))
- So Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of **Machpelah** in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite that is in front of Mamre. ([Genesis 25:9](#))
- In the cave that is in the field of **Machpelah** that is in front of Mamre in the land of Canaan, the field that Abraham purchased from Ephron the Hittite for the possession of a burial place.

(Genesis 49:30)

- There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah. (Genesis 49:31)
- So his sons carried him into the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of **Machpelah**, the field that Abraham had purchased for the possession of a burial place from Ephron the Hittite in front of Mamre. (Genesis 50:13)
- The designation, **Machpelah**, evidently also applied to the surrounding area.
- Thus the field of Ephron that was in **Machpelah**, which is in front of Mamre, the field and the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all its boundaries round about, became confirmed. (Genesis 23:17)
- The burial cave is generally identified with **Me`arat HaMakhpela**, located in modern Hebron beneath a Moslem mosque within an enclosure called Haram el-Khalil.
- Thus the field of Ephron that was in **Machpelah**, which is in front of Mamre, the field and the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all its boundaries round about, became confirmed (Genesis 23:17)
- The Hebrew-language term indicating the position of the cave of **Machpelah** in relation to Mamre has been variously rendered, east of, **RS**, before **AS**, near [The Bible in Basic English], opposite, **JB**, and in front of Mamre, **NW**.
- If the traditional location of Mamre, **er-Ramat el-Khalil**, is correct, the rendering, east of Mamre, would not be appropriate, since this site lies about 3 kilometers (2 miles) North of modern Hebron. The phrase, Mamre, that is to say; Hebron.
- And after that Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of **Machpelah** in front of Mamre, that is to say; Hebron, in the land of Canaan. (Genesis 23:19)
- May mean that Mamre was in the district of Hebron.

