

Acts 7:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And were carried over into Sychem, and laid in the sepulchre that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Sychem.

Analysis

The burial in Shechem's tomb demonstrates covenant people's connection to promised land even in death. The 'sepulchre that Abraham bought' (Genesis 23 records Machpelah; Genesis 33:19 records Jacob's Shechem purchase—Stephen likely conflates or refers to separate purchases) emphasizes legal possession of Canaan through purchase. Even in death, the patriarchs claimed the inheritance, showing faith in resurrection and God's land promise fulfillment.

Historical Context

Shechem, in central Canaan between Mounts Gerizim and Ebal, held covenant significance as the location of Abraham's first altar in Canaan (Genesis 12:6-7) and Joshua's covenant renewal (Joshua 24). Joseph's bones were specifically buried there (Joshua 24:32). The purchased burial ground represented tangible claim to the promised land.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the patriarchs' insistence on burial in Canaan teach us about faith's confidence in God's promises?
2. How does legally purchased burial ground demonstrate that God's promises include both spiritual and physical inheritance?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	μετετέθησαν	εἰς	Συχέμ	καὶ	ἐτέθησαν	ἐν	τοῦ
And	were carried over	into	Sychem	And	laid	in	the father
G2532	G3346	G1519	G4966	G2532	G5087	G1722	G3588
μνηματι	ὃ	ὠνήσατο	Ἀβραὰμ	τιμῆς	ἀργυρίου	παρὰ	
the sepulchre	that	bought	Abraham	for a sum	of money	of	
G3418	G3739	G5608	G11	G5092	G694	G3844	
τοῦ	υἱῶν	Ἑμμόρ	τοῦ	Συχέμ			
the father	the sons	of Emmor	the father	Sychem			
G3588	G5207	G1697	G3588	G4966			

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 24:32 (Parallel theme): And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver: and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph.

Genesis 23:16 (References Abraham): And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant.

Exodus 13:19 (Parallel theme): And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him: for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you; and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you.

Genesis 50:13 (References Abraham): For his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham

bought with the field for a possession of a buryingplace of Ephron the Hittite,
before Mamre.

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