

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 τῷ
And were carried over into Sychem And laid in the father
G2532 G3346 G1519 G4966 G2532 G5087 G1722 G3588

μνήματι ὅ ὡνήσατο Ἀβραὰμ τιμῆς ἀργυρίου παρὰ^{τοῦ}
the sepulchre that bought Abraham for a sum of money of
G3418 G3739 G5608 G11 G5092 G694 G3844

τοῦ νιῶν Ἐμμὸρ 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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