

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible. Below it, a planet with a dark, textured surface and a bright horizon line is shown. The background is a dark, starry space. The text "THE BOOK OF GENESIS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The word "GENESIS" is significantly larger than "THE BOOK OF".

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

LASTING LESSONS OF FAITH

GENESIS 23

What fragrance will your life leave behind when you leave to go home to be with the Lord?

King Solomon said, “*A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death, than the day of one’s birth.*” **Ecc. 7:1**

- The names of Abraham and Sarah were fragrant in life and in death, and are still fragrant today.

THE DEATH OF ABRAHAM'S PRINCESS

GEN. 23:1-20

- Abraham's tears **v. 1-2**
 - a. Grieving is one of God's gifts to help heal broken hearts when people we love are taken from us in death.
 - b. Even though he was a man of faith, Abraham did not feel that his tears were an evidence of unbelief.
 - c. Believers do not approach death with fear, but we still have sorrow—the right kind of sorrow. **Rev. 14:13**

SOME ADDITIONAL LESSONS

- Abraham's **TESTIMONY** was clear. **v. 3-6**
- Abraham's **TACTICS** were righteous. **v. 7-16**

Let's take care of a bit of a biblical problem:

- One of the Bible's so-called "contradictions" is said to exist between our passage tonight and Stephen's statement in **Acts 7:16**.
- So which one is it? **Let's search some scriptures: Gen. 50:13; Joshua 24:32; Gen. 33:19-20**. Or, is it possible both statements are true?

ABRAHAM'S TOMB WAS NOT HIS ETERNAL HOME GEN. 23:17-20

The key phrase in the chapter—used seven times—is ***“bury my/the dead.”***

- People often get hung up on burial/cremation and what should be done biblically. I don't personally think it matters one bit because:
 - a. God promises us a new body! **1 Cor. 15:35-38**
 - b. Genesis ends with a full tomb, but the four gospels end with an empty tomb!

The fragrance we leave
behind should be of lives
lived in faith that have counted
for the kingdom and missed
by all who knew us. BUT . . .

Where or how you are buried matters not; we
have been born again ***“to a living hope through
the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”***

1 Peter 1:3

