

Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, "I am a sojourner and foreigner among you..."

Genesis 23:1-5

*"Hear us, my lord; you are **a prince of God among us**. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead." Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land.*

Genesis 23:6-7

Ephron answered Abraham, "My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead."

Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites...

Genesis 23:14-16

God Cares about our reputation with "outsiders"

*...and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your **daily life** may **win the respect** of outsiders ...*

I Thessalonians 4:11-12

*But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, ... always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet **do it with gentleness and respect**, having a good conscience, ...*

I Peter 3:14-16

Our reputation matters because God's reputation matters

...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Lives of hopeful expectation

*All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they **saw it all from a distance and welcomed it**. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth.*

Hebrews 11:13 (NLT)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades...

Isaiah 40:6-8

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

Romans 8:18-19

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

I Corinthians 15:58