

Genesis 23 and 34 parallels and differences

GENESIS 23	GENESIS 34
PARALLELS	
<p>Abraham speaks with the Hittites because his woman, Sarah, is dead and requires a burial place</p>	<p>Jacob speaks with the Hivites because his daughter, Dinah, is ritually “dead” and requires justice/compensation</p>
<p>Ephron the Hittite speaks in the presence of “all who went in at the gate of the city” (23.10, 18)</p>	<p>Shechem speaks to “all who went out of the gate of the city” (34.20, 24)</p>
<p>The question of sharing the land is at issue</p>	<p>The question of sharing the land is at issue</p>
<p>A question of price for land (23.15-16)</p>	<p>A question of price for Dinah (34.12)</p>
<p>Mention of “merchants/traders” (<i>schr</i>, 23.16)</p>	<p>Mention of “trade” (<i>schr</i>, 34.10, 21)</p>
<p><i>The bones of Joseph, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem, in the portion of ground that Jacob had bought from the children of Hamor, the father of Shechem, for one hundred pieces of money; it became an inheritance of the descendants of Joseph. (Joshua 24.32; cf. Acts 7.16)</i></p>	<p><i>And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for one hundred pieces of money the plot of land on which he had pitched his tent. (33.19)</i></p>
DIFFERENCES	
<p>Sarah is Abraham’s wife</p>	<p>Dinah is Jacob’s daughter</p>
<p>The chapter is about one, specific need</p>	<p>The chapter moves among the themes of gender violence, “royal” power, inter-marriage, circumcision and justice</p>
<p>Abraham is urgent to bury Sarah</p>	<p>Hamor and Shechem are urgent to acquire Dinah for Shechem</p>
<p>Ending: a land purchase price is negotiated and Sarah is buried: peace among them</p>	<p>Ending: Levi and Simeon kill and plunder the Shechemites: Jacob’s name “stinks” in the region</p>