

ABRAHAM'S BURIAL GROUND – Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.

Genesis 23:17	Acts 7:16	Genesis 33:19
Abraham secured a field for a sepulcher in 1859 BC born 1997, died at age 175 in 1821 BC	Abraham bought a sepulcher c.1820?? In 1921 BC Abe had built an altar at Sichem on the plain of Moreh Gen. 12:6	Jacob bought field where he pitched his tent c.1730 BC c.129 years after Gen.23:17. Built altar at Shechem. Gen. 33:20 born 1836 BC c.90 years after Acts 7:16.
Heth Zohar the Hittite *Ephron the Hittite	Emmor *Sychem	Hamor the Hivite *Shechem Dinah c.1730 BC
Sepulcher (field of Machpelah, cave & trees)	Sepulcher "the fathers" (Jacob's sons) were buried there	
sons of Heth are Hittites Gen. 23:10-11		Hivites Gen.34:2
Hebron = Mamre	Sychem	Shechem
400 shekels of silver		100 pieces of silver
Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah & Jacob were buried here (Gen. 23:19, 25:9-10, 49:29-33, 50:12-13)		Although Jacob didn't say he bought the field for burial, Joseph's bones were buried there in 1689 BC. (Josh. 24:32; Gen. 33:19)

Similar, to the well of Beersheba incident which was originally dug by Abraham's servants. Abe paid for the rights to the well by giving 7 lambs to Abimelech, Philistine king of Gerar (Gen.21:25-34). Later, due to the nomadic life style of Abraham & his family, these rights became ignored and the well fell back into the possession of the local inhabitants. About 87 years later, Isaac averted a range war by sharing an oath & covenant meal with Abimelech (the son?) whereby Isaac's right to the same well was secured. (Gen.26:12-33). Stephen (via the Holy Spirit) was undoubtedly aware of a reliable oral tradition that Abraham had purchased a second sepulcher from Emmor even though it was not recorded in the OT. As Abraham's purchases were in Hebron and Sychem, some 50 miles apart, two different acquisitions are clearly before us. Any resolution must also take into account that Shechem is said to be a young man when he raped Dinah. As Abraham & Isaac lived to 175 and 180 respectively, the resolving scenario could allow Hamor's age to attain such longevity.