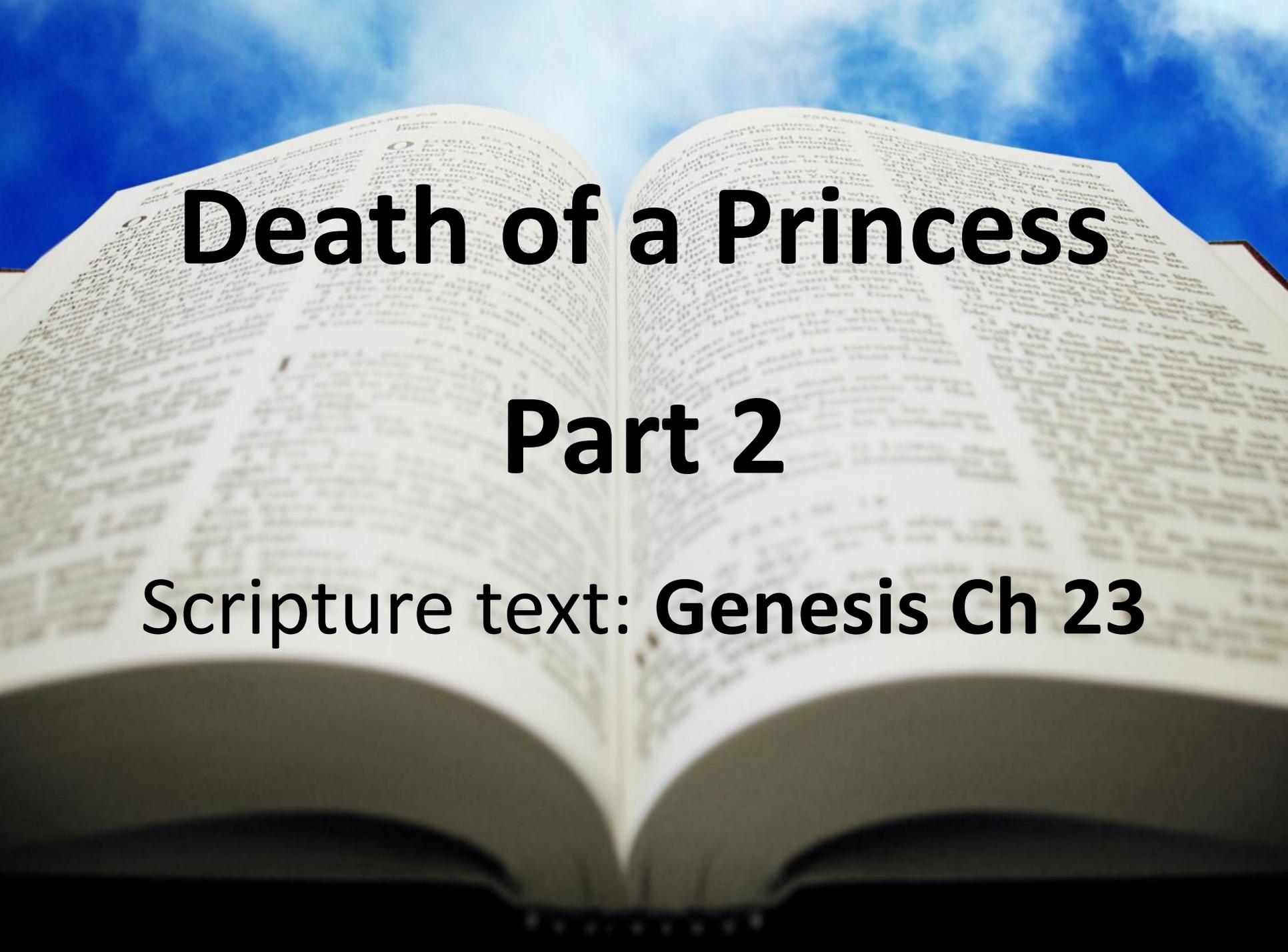


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Death of a Princess

Part 2

Scripture text: **Genesis Ch 23**

Abraham's testimony (Gen. 23:3–6). We cannot mourn over our dead forever; there comes a time when we must accept what has happened, face life, and fulfill our obligations to both the living and the dead. **Because he was not a citizen of the land** (Heb. 11:13), Abraham had to request a place to bury his wife. The truth was that Abraham owned the whole land. God had given it to him, but there was no way he could convince his neighbors of that.

Genesis 23:3-6 And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, "I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight." The Hittites answered Abraham, "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."

Like Abraham, God's people today are "**pilgrims and strangers**" in this present world (1 Peter 1:1; 2:11). We live in "**tents**" (2 Cor. 5:1–8) which one day will be taken down when we move to glory. When Paul wrote "**the time of my departure is at hand**" (2 Tim. 4:6), he used a military word that meant "**to take down a tent and move on.**" Our present body is **temporary**, but one day we will receive a **glorified body like the body that Jesus Christ** now has in heaven (Phil. 3:20–21; 1 John 3:1–3).

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

1 Peter 2:11-12 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they **may see your good deeds and glorify God** on the day of visitation.

2 Timothy 4:5-8 **As for you**, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, **fulfill your ministry**. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and **the time of my departure has come**. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, **I have kept the faith**. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and **not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing**.

2 Corinthians 5:2-8 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened--not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, **so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.** He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, **who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.** So we are always of good courage. **We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.** Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and **at home with the Lord.**

Philippians 3:17-21 Brothers, join in imitating me, and **keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But **our citizenship is in heaven,** and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.**

1 John 3:1-5 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, **that we should be called children of God; and so we are.** The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, **we are God's children now,** and what we will be has not yet appeared; but **we know that when he appears we shall be like him,** because we shall see him as he is. And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.** Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

The men of the land called Abraham “a mighty prince” (Gen. 23:6), which in the Hebrew is “**a prince with God.**” He had a good testimony among them, and **they respected him.** Even though this world is not our home, **we must be careful as pilgrims and strangers** to have a good witness to those who are outside the faith (1 Thes. 4:12; Col. 4:5; 1 Peter 2:11ff). These Hittites did not worship Abraham’s God, but **they respected Abraham and his faith.** In fact, they offered him the use of one of their own tombs (Gen. 23:6); but Abraham refused.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and **to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.**

Colossians 4:2-6 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison-- that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. **Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.**

1 Peter 2:10-14 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, **I urge you as sojourners and exiles** to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable**, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good.

It is a wonderful thing in a time of sorrow when the child of God has a strong witness to the lost. There is a natural sorrow that everyone expects us to manifest, but **there is also a supernatural grace that God gives so that we might have joy in the midst of sorrow.** The unsaved can tell the difference, and **this gives us opportunity for sharing the good news of the Gospel.**