

וַיִּשְׁקַל אַבְרָהָם לַעֲפְרוֹן אֶת הַכֶּסֶף... אַרְבַּעַּ מאות שֶׁקֶל כֶּסֶף עֹבֵר לְסוֹחֵר...
(בראשית כ"ג:ט"ז)

YOU OWN THIS STORY

It's your History. Your Heritage. Your Hebron.



CHAYEI SARAH
TRIVIA & LEARNING GUIDE



CHAYEI SARAH INTERNATIONAL HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY:
THE ROTHNER FAMILY (CHICAGO, ILLINOIS)

Chayei Sarah is more than a parsha — it is the story of our people's first connection to Eretz Yisrael. From Avraham's purchase of the Ma'arat HaMachpela to Rivka's journey, we encounter the faith, courage, and chessed that shaped our nation.

This booklet combines Torah, history, and interactive learning to help each of us connect to the eternal message of Hebron.

MESSAGE FROM RABBI DAN ROSENSTEIN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE HEBRON FUND

I am pleased to present you with the **Chayei Sarah Trivia & Learning Guide**. We gratefully acknowledge the vision and generous support of The Rothner Family (Chicago, Illinois) for underwriting the Chayei Sarah International Educational Initiative.

This year, schools and synagogues across the United States have received **Chayei Sarah wristbands, booklets, and banners** to help students and congregants connect more deeply with the Parsha. Remember **YOU own this story!**

The tragic day of **Simchat Torah, October 7, 2023**, and the two years that followed have been unimaginably challenging for **Klal Yisrael**. Here in Hebron, we mourn the many **IDF soldiers** who lost their lives of men and women from across the country, many of whom served right here in Hebron. Their service was strengthened by the love and support of **The Hebron Fund**: through Shabbat meals you sponsored, the **Pinah Chamah** (soldier rest and refreshment area), weekly **challah deliveries** to their bases, and the **soldier BBQs** made possible by our supporters.

We dedicate this booklet to their memory, to our local heroes from **Hebron/Kiryat Arba** who fell defending Israel: **Elyakim Libman hy”d**; **Major Uri Mordecai Shani hy”d**; **First Sergeant Yehudah Dror Yahalom hy”d**; **Captain Elkana Yedidya Spaz hy”d**; and **First Lieutenant Yochai Duchan hy”d**.

Even as we carry this deep pain, we also share in moments of profound joy. Recently, **Eitan Mor**, a local resident, was among the 20 living hostages who were miraculously released. The homecoming procession last week was inspiring beyond words.

Let us take this opportunity to **learn more Torah** in memory of the **kedoshim**. Use this guide to teach your children about **Parshat Chayei Sarah** and perhaps you, too, will discover something new about **Hebron**, the city of our ancestors.

May we continue to emerge **stronger and more united**, and may we soon merit the **Geulah Sheleimah b’mheirah b’yameinu**.

Shabbat Shalom!

The Hebron Fund supports the residents of Hebron who live and walk in the footsteps of our Forefathers and Mothers; cares for the IDF soldiers, maintains and beautifies holy sites, educates and inspires thousands of tourists. Please visit hebronfund.org to learn more about Hebron Fund projects.

Book your Hebron Fund tour next time you’re in Israel.

MESSAGE FROM RABBI SIMCHA HOCHBAUM

DIRECTOR OF HEBRON TOURISM

LIVING WITH THE TIMES

Parshat Chayei Sarah

This Shabbat we read of the sudden passing of Sarah Imeinu at the age of 127. Chazal teach that the shock of hearing that her son, Yitzchak, had nearly been sacrificed on Har HaMoriah was too much to bear.

In Aish Kodesh, the Piaseczner Rebbe explains that Sarah Imeinu's passing is, in a sense, a protest before Hashem: no Jewish mother should ever be tested with the loss of a child. "If I—whom the Torah praises for righteousness—could not withstand such a trial, how can any mother be expected to endure it?"

After two years marked by profound pain and challenge for our people, we arrive at this Shabbat to honor our Matriarch Sarah—who, as our Sages teach, gave of her own years so that no Jewish mother would have to face such anguish.

With gratitude to Hashem we have recently merited to witness precious reunions between living hostages and their families. May we continue to be privileged to see the unification of parents and children in Hevron and in all of Israel.

This Shabbat, tens of thousands are expected to gather in Chevron to commemorate Sarah Imeinu's devotion to her descendants. We warmly invite you to visit Ma'arat HaMachpelah and the Jewish community of Chevron.

Shabbat Shalom

TRIVIA QUESTIONS



- 1. HOW MUCH DID AVRAHAM PURCHASE MA'ARAT HAMACHPELA FOR?**
 - A. 200 shekels of silver
 - B. 300 shekels of silver
 - C. 400 shekels of silver
 - D. 4000 shekels of silver
- 2. WHOSE HEAD IS BURIED IN THE MA'ARAT HAMACHPELA?**
 - A. Yishmael
 - B. Esav
 - C. George Washington
 - D. All of the above
- 3. HOW MANY DAYS A YEAR DO THE JEWS HAVE ACCESS TO RIVKA AND YITZCHAK?**
 - A. 10 days
 - B. 3 days
 - C. 4 days
 - D. 8 days
- 4. WHAT DOES MA'ARAT HAMACHPELA MEAN?**
 - A. Double Cave
 - B. The Bat Cave
 - C. The Temple Mount
 - D. Cave of the Ancients
- 5. WHO WAS THE FIRST ONE BURIED IN HEBRON?**
 - A. Avraham
 - B. Sarah
 - C. Yitzchak
 - D. Adam and Chava
- 6. WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE SHABBAT WE READ ABOUT AVRAHAM'S PURCHASE?**
 - A. HaGadol
 - B. Chayei Sarah
 - C. Yom Ha'atzmaut
 - D. Mother's Day
- 7. HOW MANY COUPLES ARE BURIED IN MA'ARAT MACHPELA?**
 - A. Four – Adam and Chava, Avraham and Sarah, Yitzchak and Rivka, and Yaakov and Leah
 - B. Three – Avraham and Sarah, Yitzchak and Rivka, and Yaakov and Leah
 - C. Twelve – corresponding to all twelve tribes
 - D. None of the above
- 8. WHAT IS ANOTHER NAME FOR HEBRON?**
 - A. Kfar Habad
 - B. Kfar Avraham
 - C. Kfar Leah
 - D. Kiryat Arba
- 9. WHAT ARE THE FOUR HOLY CITIES OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL?**
 - A. Hebron, Tzfat, Jerusalem and Tiberias
 - B. Hebron, Jerusalem, Haifa and Teaneck
 - C. Hebron, Jerusalem, Tzfat and Tel Aviv
 - D. Hebron, Jerusalem, Los Angeles and Fort Lauderdale
- 10. WHAT DOES THE HEBRON FUND DO?**
 - A. Support Hebron families
 - B. Beautify and maintain Hebron's holy sites
 - C. Sponsor public events and increase visitors
 - D. All of the above

PARSHA QUESTIONS



1. HOW OLD WAS SARAH WHEN SHE DIED?
2. HOW OLD WAS AVRAHAM WHEN HE DIED?
3. WHY IS THE PARSHA CALLED CHAYEI SARAH?
4. WHY IS THE WORD "ולבכתה" — "AND WEEP FOR HER" WRITTEN WITH A SMALL "כ?"
5. WHY DIDN'T AVRAHAM AGREE TO TAKE IT AS A GIFT OR AT A DISCOUNTED PRICE?
6. HOW DID EFRON CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF 400 SHEKELS OF SILVER?
7. WHAT SPECIAL CHARACTER TRAIT DID ELIEZER SEEK WHEN CHOOSING A WIFE FOR YITZCHAK?
8. ASIDE FROM ELIEZER, WHO DID RIVKA OFFER TO GIVE WATER?
9. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PARSHA, THE TORAH TELLS US THAT SARAH DIES AT THE AGE OF 127 IN KIRYAT ARBA. WHAT DOES THE NUMBER 4 SYMBOLIZE?
10. HOW DO WE KNOW WHO IS BURIED IN MA'ARAT HAMACHPELA FROM THE WORD ישראל?

WHO IS BURIED IN HEBRON?



Y	B	L	N	L	R	Q	X	K	A	P	R	Z	H
Z	V	Z	E	L	O	T	U	A	J	R	K	A	Z
X	U	J	Y	A	G	R	E	V	D	A	T	W	H
J	B	B	D	J	H	D	Q	L	H	L	V	G	A
K	U	A	N	M	V	U	I	C	M	O	V	Z	R
W	V	O	K	A	A	Y	Z	G	N	G	T	Y	A
L	C	Q	L	H	B	T	E	Y	T	O	S	O	S
H	R	H	H	K	I	F	W	K	A	D	G	S	T
M	Z	L	T	Y	W	K	V	V	A	Z	D	L	Y
I	M	S	U	R	R	A	R	V	W	Q	Y	C	I
J	G	A	R	X	S	A	I	A	T	J	E	Q	S
N	L	W	D	E	H	D	Z	Z	Q	C	I	H	H
O	N	A	M	A	F	M	M	A	Q	X	W	E	A
Z	C	I	M	S	C	H	A	V	A	Z	N	T	I

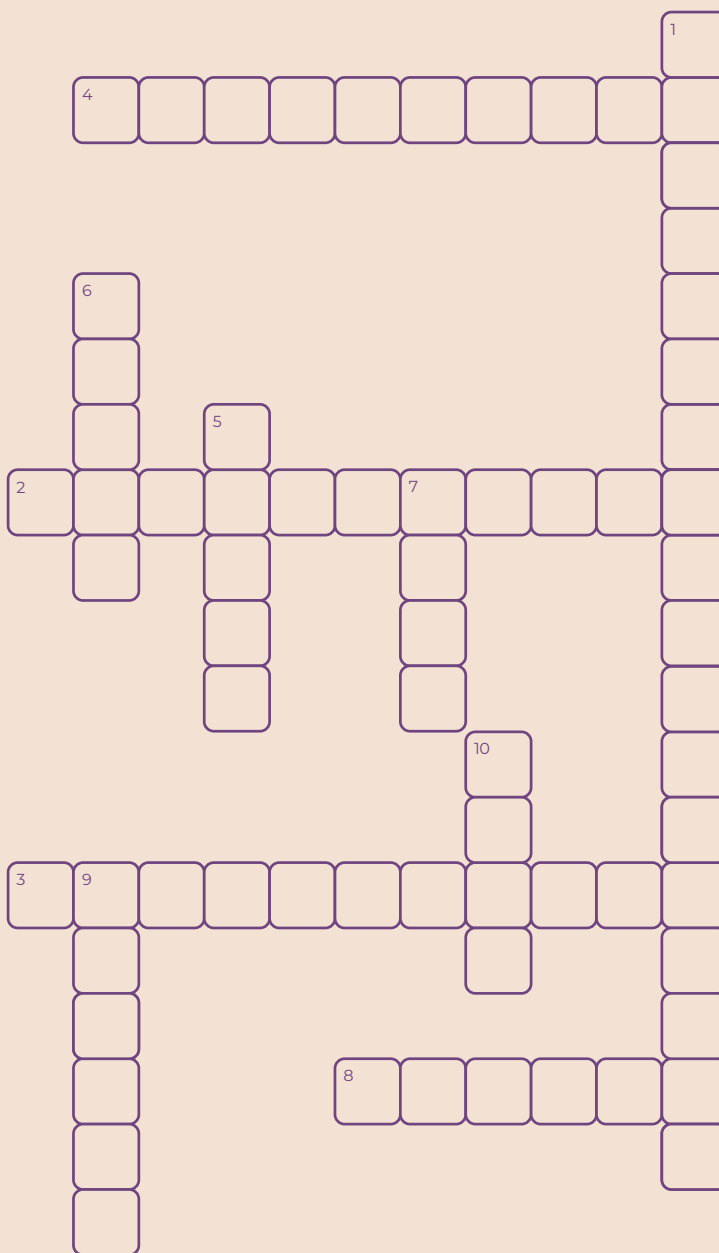
**SARAH
YITZCHAK
AVRAHAM
YAAKOV**

**YISHAI
CHAVA
DAVID
ESAV**

**RUTH
ADAM
LEAH**



HEBRON CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

1. Refreshment station for soldiers
2. Name of Shabbat when we read about Avraham's purchase
3. Another name for Hebron
4. Foremother not buried in Hebron

DOWN:

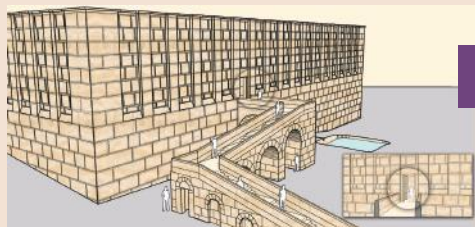
1. Cave purchased from Ephron
2. First person buried in Hebron
3. King who ruled in Hebron for seven years
4. Hebron is one of these four in Israel
5. City Avraham purchased a burial cave in
6. Whose head is buried in Ma'arat HaMachpela

HILLEL TORAH OF CHICAGO SENDS LETTERS TO SOLDIERS GUESTS AND FAMILY DELIVERS IT



THE TOMB OF THE ANCESTORS

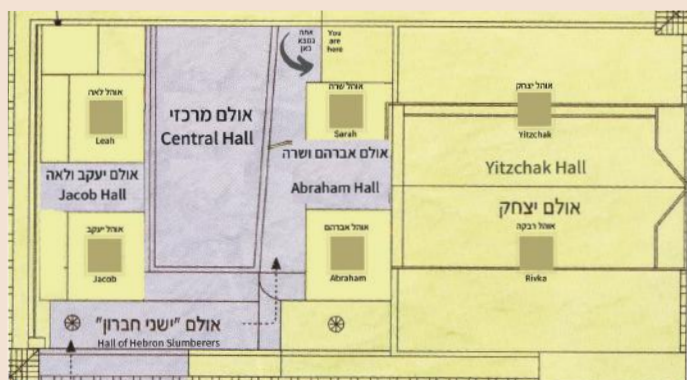
מערת המכפלה



1



5



2

המדרגה
השביעית
The Seventh
Step



6



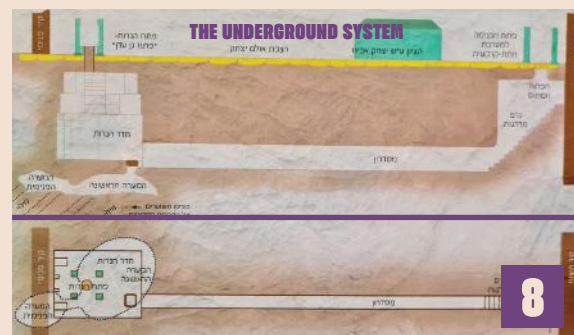
4



3



7



8

WELCOME

You are inside an ancient and special building which has miraculously remained intact and continuously active for over 2,000 years. This structure was built over the Cave of Machpela, the sacred burial cave complex where the Patriarchs and Matriarchs of the Bible were laid to rest.

THE ANCIENT STRUCTURE

The building above the cave was built by Herod, King of Judah, about 2,000 years ago. The style of the building and the Herodian masonry is the same as the walls of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and its remnant, the Western Wall. Its dimensions are 60mx35m. The upper floor, where you are standing, was built for visitation and prayer. Six memorial markers ("Tziyyunim" in Hebrew) were placed at symmetrical intervals to represent the tombs of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs: the central pair represent Abraham and Sarah, the eastern pair for Isaac and Rebecca, and the western pair for Jacob and Leah. Research shows that the original entrance gates to the structure were in the southern and northern walls **(1)**

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAMS - THE STRUCTURE BEFORE AND AFTER ITS DIVISION

In the Talmudic period (Byzantine era, 6th century CE), the building was divided and the eastern part was sectioned off for use as a church. In the 7th-8th century CE, rooms were built around the markers of Abraham and Sarah, and Jacob and Leah.

The conquering Mamluks later converted the church into a mosque, but the synagogue continued to function. **(2)**

In 1119 CE, the entrance to the underground system was revealed. The Crusader rulers allowed visitors to enter the tombs. Among those who had the privilege of entering was the Jewish physician and codifier Rambam "Maimonides" (1165 CE), who wrote: "I left Jerusalem for Hebron and that day I stood in the cave and offered praise to God."

During this period, an awning was erected over the passageway to the cave complex below the building. **(3)**



HALL OF ISAAC AND REBECCA

On the opposite ends of the Hall of Isaac and Rebecca are two entrances to the underground cave. These entrances have been sealed for many generations and are shrouded in mystery. An ancient Jewish tradition calls the cave the "gateway to heaven" a place that connects heaven and earth and where souls and prayers ascend to heaven. **(4)**

THE WESTERN ENTRANCE TO THE SHRINE

A stone canopy was erected during the Mamluk period over the western entrance to the cave complex. **(5)** During this period (1267 CE) Jews and Christians were forbidden to enter the complex and were only allowed to ascend to the seventh step outside the building. Jews prayed there for almost 700 years.

THE FIRST MODERN EXPLORATION IN 1968

Under Israeli control, an attempt was made in 1968 to excavate the Cave. A 12-year-old girl, became the first person to enter the Cave in 700 years. She discovered a tunnel under the Hall of Isaac and Rebecca, and the stairs leading up from it, ending in a stone wall. The results of her exploration were published by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and formed the basis for further research. **(6)**

THE DISCOVERY OF THE CAVE

Thanks to the 1968 exploration, an eastern entrance to the underground caves dating to the Crusader period was discovered. On the night of Selichot in 1981, a team from Midreshet Hebron)Hebron College(descended into this entrance and discovered the inner cave beneath the memorial monument to Abraham which dated to the era of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs. Pottery from the Kingdom of Judah)8th-9th century BCE(was also discovered there. **(7)**

Thus it was proved that the underground complex contains a double cave. However, today the entrance is closed. In the cross-section map you can see the double cave, the "Room of Candles" above it, the tunnel that leads into the cave, and the steps leading to the upper plaza. **(8)**

יעקב · יצחק · שרה · רבקה · אברהם · לאה

שְׁרָאָל

חברון

TRIVIA ANSWER KEY



1. HOW MUCH DID AVRAHAM PURCHASE
PURCHASE MA'ARAT HAMACHPELA FOR?
C. 400 SHEKELS OF SILVER
2. WHOSE HEAD IS BURIED IN MACHPELA?
B. ESAV
3. HOW MANY DAYS A YEAR DO THE JEWS HAVE
ACCESS TO RIVKA AND YITZCHAK?
A. 10 DAYS
4. WHAT DOES MA'ARAT HAMACHPELA MEAN?
A. DOUBLE CAVE
5. WHO WAS THE FIRST ONE BURIED IN HEBRON?
D. ADAM AND CHAVA
6. WHAT'S THE NAME OF THE SHABBAT WE READ
ABOUT AVRAHAM'S PURCHASE?
B. CHAYEI SARAH
7. HOW MANY COUPLES ARE BURIED IN MA'ARAT
MACHPELA?
**A. FOUR – ADAM AND CHAVA, AVRAHAM AND
SARAH, YITZCHAK AND RIVKA, AND YAAKOV
AND LEAH**
8. WHAT IS ANOTHER NAME FOR HEBRON?
D. KIRYAT ARBA
9. WHAT ARE THE FOUR HOLY CITIES OF THE LAND
OF ISRAEL?
A. HEBRON, TZFAT, JERUSALEM AND TIBERIAS
10. WHAT ARE THE FOUR HOLY CITIES OF THE LAND
OF ISRAEL?
D. ALL OF THE ABOVE

1. HOW OLD WAS SARAH WHEN SHE DIED?
127 YEARS OLD
2. HOW OLD WAS AVRAHAM WHEN HE DIED?
175 YEARS OLD
3. WHY IS THE PARSHA CALLED CHAYEI SARAH?
**EVEN THOUGH SARAH PASSED AWAY, HER GOOD DEEDS
CONTINUED TO LIVE ON. HER KINDNESS AND FAITH
MADE HER LIFE SHINE FOREVER.**
4. WHY IS THE WORD "ולביתה" — "AND WEEP FOR HER"
WRITTEN WITH A SMALL "כ"?
**ONE OF THE REASONS IS THAT AT THE END OF LAST
WEEK'S PARSHA, AVRAHAM SET OFF TO SACRIFICE
YITZCHAK. AVRAHAM DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW "REGRET"
FOR PERFORMING HASHEM'S COMMANDMENT AND
LOSE THE MERIT OF THE MITZVAH. THEREFORE, HE
ONLY CRIED 'A LITTLE'.**
5. WHY DIDN'T AVRAHAM AGREE TO TAKE IT AS A GIFT OR AT
A DISCOUNTED PRICE?
**AVRAHAM KNEW THAT ONE DAY THERE WOULD BE A
BDS MOVEMENT, ANTI-SEMITES, AND DISHONEST MEDIA
THAT WOULD SAY HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY BUY THE
MACHPELA AND THAT IT WAS JUST A TEMPORARY LOAN
OR RENTAL. IN THIS WAY, AVRAHAM AVINU PURCHASED
ETERNITY FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE!**
6. HOW DID EFRON CALCULATE THE AMOUNT OF SHEKELS
OF SILVER?
**EFRON SAID, " WHAT'S BETWEEN YOU AND ME, 400
SILVER SHEKELS? IF YOU LOOK AT THE MIDDLE LETTER
OF AVRAHAM AND EFRON, THEY BOTH HAVE A 'REISH'
WHICH IS THE NUMERICAL VALUE OF 200, AND 200 =
400!!**
7. WHAT SPECIAL CHARACTER TRAIT DID ELIEZER SEEK
WHEN CHOOSING A WIFE FOR YITZCHAK?
**CHESSED - HE LOOKED FOR KINDNESS, SOMEONE WHO
GIVES WITH A WHOLE HEART AND GOES BEYOND WHAT
IS ASKED.**
8. ASIDE FROM ELIEZER, TO WHO DID RIVKA OFFER TO GIVE
WATER?
**SHE GAVE WATER TO ALL HIS CAMELS—TEN OF THEM!
THAT DEMONSTRATED HER KINDNESS AND HARD WORK.**
9. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PARSHA, THE TORAH TELLS US
THAT SARAH DIES AT THE AGE OF 127 IN KIRYAT ARBA.
WHAT DOES THE NUMBER 4 SYMBOLIZE?
**ACCORDING TO RASHI, KIRYAT ARBA MEANS "CITY OF
FOUR" BECAUSE FOUR SPECIAL COUPLES ARE BURIED
THERE— ADAM AND CHAVA, AVRAHAM AND SARAH,
YITZCHAK AND RIVKA, AND YAAKOV AND LEAH. IT IS
ALSO KNOWN FOR THE 4 GIANTS AHIMAN, SHESHAI,
TALMAI, AND THEIR FATHER, ARBA.**
10. HOW DO WE KNOW WHO IS BURIED IN MA'ARAT
HAMACHPELA FROM THE WORD ישראל?
**THE LETTERS IN THE HEBREW WORD "ישראל" STAND FOR
EACH OF THE PATRIARCHS & MATRIARCHS BURIED IN
MA'ARAT HAMACHPELA. CAN YOU, LETTER BY LETTER,
NAME EACH OF THEM?**



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חברון



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TOURS: 📞 +972.52.431.7055 • OFFICE: 718.677.6886 • tour@hebronfund.org





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THE HEBRON FUND

1760 OCEAN AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11230

(718) 677-6886

TAX ID #11-2623719