

Chapter 23

Sara dying Abraham folemnizeth her funeral, 4. byeth a field with a duble caue of Ephron, 15. for hour hundreth ficles, 19. and there burieth her.

And Sara liued an hundred twentie feuen yeares. ² And she died in the citie of Arbee which is Hebron, in the land of Chanaan: And Abraham came to mourne, and weepe for her. ³ And after that he was risen vp from ^athe funeral obsequies, he spake to the children of Heth, faying: ⁴ I am a ftranger and pilgrime among you: geue me the right of a fepulchre with you, that I may burie my dead. ⁵ The children of Heth anfwered, faying: ⁶ My lord heare vs, thou art a prince of God among vs: in our principal fepulchres burie thou thy dead: and no man can let thee but that in his owne monument thou mayest burie thy dead. ⁷ Abraham rofe vp, and ^badored the people of the land, to wit the children of Heth: ⁸ and he faid to them: If it please your foule that I burie my dead, heare me, and be interceffors for me to Ephron the fonne of Seor: ⁹ that he geue me the duble caue, which he hath in the vttermoft part of his field: for money to the worth therof let him deliuer it to me before you for poffeffion of a fepulchre. ¹⁰ And Ephron dwelt in the middest of the children of Heth. And Ephron made anfwer to Abraham in the hearing of al that went in at the gate of the citie, faying: ¹¹ No, it fhall not be fo, my lord, but thou rather harken to that which I doe fay: The field I deliuer to thee, and the caue that is therein, in the prefence of the children of my people, burie thy dead. ¹² Abraham adored before the people of the land. ¹³ And he fpoke to Ephron, his people fstanding round about: I befeech thee to heare me: I wil geue money for the field:

^a A cleare example of religious office in burying the dead, See *2. Reg. 1.* and *2. Paral. 35.*

^b Adoration vfed for reuerence done to men. See alfo *c. 27. v. 29. c. 33. v. 3. 7.* and *S. Aug. q. 61. in Gen.*

take it, and so I will bury my dead in it. ¹⁴ And Ephron answered: ¹⁵ My lord, hear me. The ground which thou desirest, is worth four hundred shekels of silver: this is the price between me and thee: but how much is this? bury thy dead. ¹⁶ Which when Abraham had heard, he weighed the money, that Ephron had asked, in the hearing of the children of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver of common current money. ¹⁷ And the field that before time was Ephron's, wherein was the double cave, looking towards Mambré, as the cave, and all the trees thereof in all the limits thereof round about: ¹⁸ was made sure to Abraham for a possession, in the sight of the children of Heth, and of all that went in at the gate of his city. ¹⁹ And so Abraham buried Sara his wife in the double cave of the field, that looked towards Mambré, this is Hebron in the land of Chanaan. ²⁰ And the field was made sure to Abraham, and the cave, that was in it, for a possession to bury in, of the Children of Heth.