

# Hebron

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- Few cities have had so influential a role in Biblical history as Hebron.
  - Located:
    - 19 to 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem.
    - 13 to 14 miles southwest of Bethlehem.
    - 20 miles from Beersheba.
  - 3,040 feet above sea level, which makes it the highest city in Israel.
  - An ancient city in the hill country of Judah, also called Kiriath-arba. Joshua Archaeologists have indicated that Hebron was occupied as early as 3300 B.C.
  - Hebron is mentioned only in the Old Testament.
    - 61 times as Hebron.
    - 6 times as Kiriath-arba
    - 10 times as plains of Mamre or oaks of Mamre
  - Hebron existed as early as the time of Abraham. Sarah died there, and Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite for 400 shekels of silver in which to bury her. **Genesis 23:2-20**
  - Machpelah is mentioned six times in the Scriptures.
  - People buried in the cave of Machpelah are:
    - Abraham buried Sarah (age 127) there. **Genesis 23:9-17**
    - Abraham's sons, Isaac and Ishmael, buried Abraham (age 175) there. **Genesis 25:9-10**
    - Jacob and Esau buried Isaac (age 180) there. **Genesis 35:29**
    - Rebekah was buried there. **Genesis 49:30-31**
    - Leah was buried there. **Genesis 49:29-33**
    - Jacob (age 147) was buried there. Jacob ("Israel") died in Egypt but

- requested that his body be brought back to Canaan to be buried. The request was honored. **Genesis 47:28-31; 50:13**
- The Oaks of Mamre are located about a mile northwest of Hebron. Here the three angels appeared unto Abraham to tell him about Sarah and the son of promise, and also about the impending destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah where Lot was living. **Genesis 18:1-33**
  - Isaac and Jacob sojourned here for a while. **Genesis 35:27-37:14**
  - Apparently Joseph had his dreams of superiority in or near Hebron.
  
  - From Hebron Joseph was sent to Shechem to check on the welfare of his brothers. **Genesis 37:1-14**
  - The false report by the brothers, along with the bloodstained coat of many colors, was given to Jacob at Hebron. **Genesis 37: 15-35**
  - It was visited by the spies who were sent by Moses to spy out the land of Canaan. **Numbers 13:22**
  - The Canaanites reestablished the city and later it was claimed by Judah as their allotted territory, but Caleb, at age 85, requested and was given permission to take it as his possession. **Judges 1:10-15; Joshua 14:13**
  - Hebron was also one of the cities of refuge. **Joshua 20:7**
  - Hebron was also a city of the Levites. **Joshua 21:11-13**
  - David sent part of the spoils of Ziklag to Hebron. **1 Samuel 30:31**
  - Later, David ruled here as King of Judah for about 7½ years. After the death of Saul, David asked the Lord to which of the cities of Judah he should go. God instructed him to go to Hebron. The men of Judah anointed him king there. **2 Samuel 2:1-4, 11, 32; 5:1-5, 13; 1 Kings 2:11; 1 Chronicles 11:1-3, 12-23; 1 Chronicles 29:27**
  - Six of David's Sons were born in Hebron. **2 Samuel 3:2-5; 1 Chronicles 3:1-4**
  - Abner was buried here (**2 Samuel 3:32**) and with him the head of Ishbosheth, son of Saul. **2 Samuel 4:12**
  - Hebron was David's first capital. Reigned there 7½ years before taking Jerusalem and moving his capital there. **2 Samuel 5:1-13**
  - Hebron became the headquarters for Absalom's revolt against his father, king David. **2 Samuel 15:7-10**

