

Genesis 23:1-2

וַיְהִי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה מֵאָה שָׁנָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעֵי שָׁנִים שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה:
2 וַתָּמָת שָׂרָה בְּקִרְיַת אַרְבַּע הוּא חֶבְרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן וַיְבֹא אַבְרָהָם
לְסַפֵּד לְשָׂרָה וּלְבַכְתָּהּ:

Vocabulary

Verse 1

חיים noun: "life"

שרה name: "Sarah"

Verse 2

קריית ארבע name: "Kiriath-arba (literally: 'City of Arba')"

חברון name: "Hebron"

ספד verb: "lament" (BDB, 704)

בכה verb: "weep"

Syntax & Misc.

Verse 1

- Sentence Typology 1 (וַיְהִי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה מֵאָה שָׁנָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעֵי שָׁנִים שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה): V-S-SC-S
 - The subject is split between the two member construct phrase, חַיֵּי שָׂרָה, and the three member construct phrase, שְׁנֵי חַיֵּי שָׂרָה.
 - Following the usual idiom, a number larger than twenty is fashioned together by *waw*.
 - Unusual though is the initial absolute form of מֵאָה instead of מֵאֵת (GKC 134d).

Verse 2

- Sentence Typology 1 (וַתָּמָת שָׂרָה בְּקִרְיַת אַרְבַּע): V-S-M
 - Arba, according to Joshua (14:15; 15:13; 21:11), was the father of the Anakim; the city name is a tribute to their eponymous hero.
- Sentence Typology 2 (הוּא חֶבְרוֹן בְּאֶרֶץ כְּנָעַן): S-P
 - The asyndetic clause designates the present name of the city as Hebron.
 - The perpetual *Kethib Qere* (היא) refers to the city.
- Sentence Typology 3 (וַיְבֹא אַבְרָהָם לְסַפֵּד לְשָׂרָה וּלְבַכְתָּהּ): V-S-M
 - The two infinitives modify the finite verb, בוא.
- Embedded Typology 1 (לְסַפֵּד לְשָׂרָה): V-O
- Embedded Typology 2 (וּלְבַכְתָּהּ): V-O
 - The final 3fs suffix designated by the *mappiq* refers to Sarah.