

## Genesis 25

Verses 1-4

**Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.** <sup>2</sup> She bore to him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. <sup>3</sup> Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. <sup>4</sup> The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All of these were the sons of Keturah.

**Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah**

Keturah is called the concubine of Abraham in **1 Chronicles 1:32**

The word for "wife" used here is also used of Jacob's concubine, Bilhah.

Either way, having multiple women at the same time is not what God set up as his standard for marriage

If this section is in chronological order then Keturah was taken after the death of Sarah

But that is highly unlikely for the following reason:

The Bible says that Abraham was "as good as dead" when he fathered Isaac

The whole point of that episode was that Isaac was a son of promise

That both Abraham and Sarah were not physically able to have a child

So how could Abraham father six more sons 40 plus years after that time?

Abraham was already a 140 years old when Isaac got married in chapter 24

Why would this part of Abraham's life be out of chronological order?

The conflict between a son of promise and the son of a slave woman was paramount

So another wife with other sons would definitely complicate the narrative

Therefore, Keturah and the other kids were introduced as a footnote to the story

Verses 5-8

**<sup>5</sup> Now Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac; <sup>6</sup> but to the sons of his concubines, Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the east. <sup>7</sup> These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, 175 years. <sup>8</sup> Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and satisfied *with life*; and he was gathered to his people.**

**<sup>6</sup> but to the sons of his concubines, Abraham gave gifts while he was still living and sent them away from his son Isaac eastward, to the land of the east.**

Verse 6 tells us two important things

1. It says concubines (plural)
2. It also says the sons of the concubines were sent away to the east

For now, we will assume the concubines were Hagar and Keturah

However, when Hagar and Ismael were sent away, after Ismael mocked Isaac, they went to the south and dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran

So it is possible that Abraham had at least one other concubine with sons that went to the east along with Keturah and her sons?

**Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and satisfied *with life*; and he was gathered to his people.**

Abraham's death at the age of 175 means he lived until Jacob and Esau were about 15

Abraham had it all, a good relationship with God, great wealth, and many descendants

It's interesting that God looked past his many wives and never required Abraham to give an account for this departure from His will.

See Acts 17:30-31

For any man to be saved, God must overlook and forgive many sins.

Have you ever wondered what sins we are blind to in our generation?

Verses 9-11

<sup>9</sup> Then his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, facing Mamre, <sup>10</sup> the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth; there Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. <sup>11</sup> It came about after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac lived by Beer-lahai-roi.

### **Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah**

Apparently the sons of Keturah were not present for the funeral

Concerning the cave, this was covered in chapter 23

The video can we seen again by following the following link

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.4.html>

### **Isaac dwelt by Beer-lahairoi**

This is where Isaac was living when he first saw his bride

This is also the same place where Hagar found the well/spring when she ran away from Sarah

See Genesis 16:13 -14

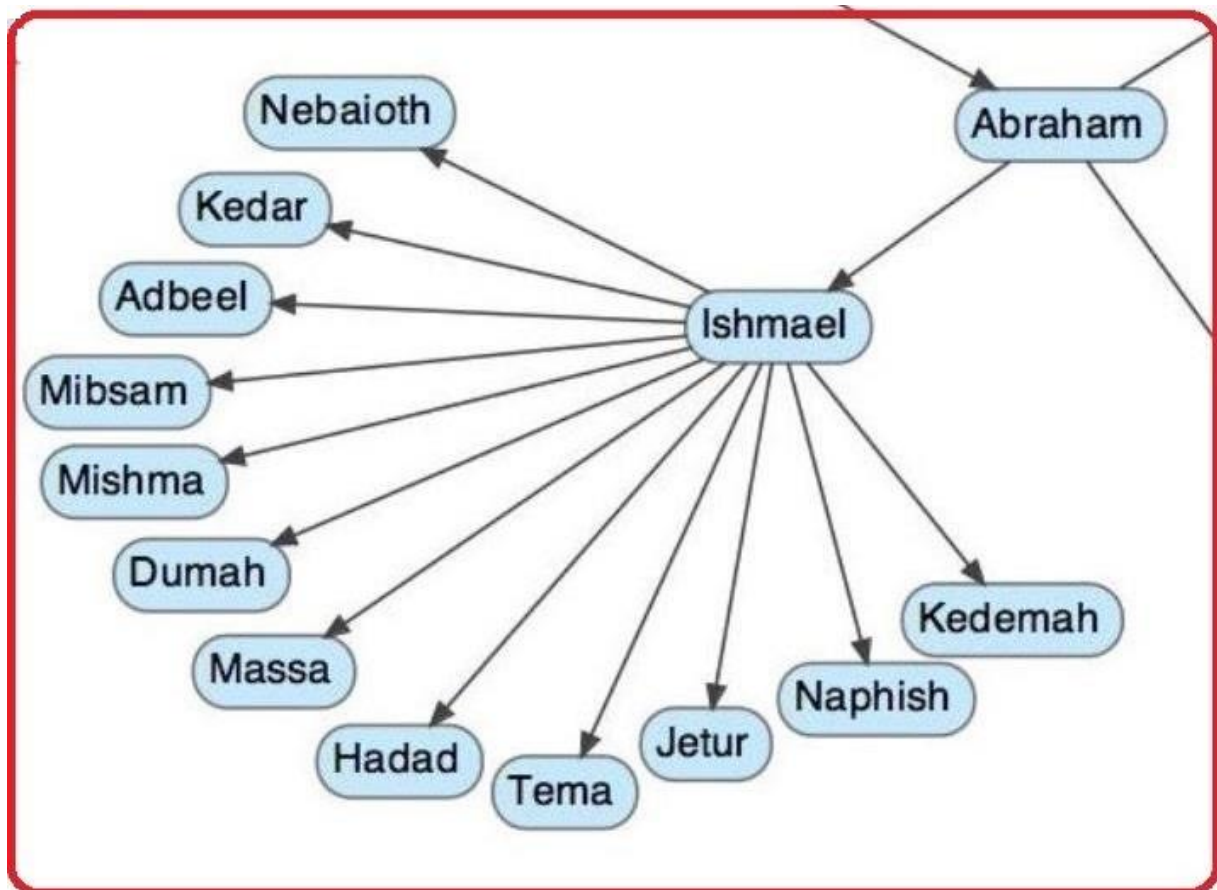
Verses 12-18

<sup>12</sup> Now these are *the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's slave woman, bore to Abraham; <sup>13</sup> and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, <sup>14</sup> Mishma, Dumah, Massa, <sup>15</sup> Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. <sup>16</sup> These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages, and by their camps; twelve princes according to their tribes. <sup>17</sup> These are the years of the life of Ishmael, 137 years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people. <sup>18</sup> They settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt going toward Assyria; he settled in defiance of all his relatives.*

<sup>12</sup> Now these are *the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's slave woman, bore to Abraham*

This is the 7th of the 10 divisions of Genesis

See chart 2505



**These are the years of the life of Ishmael, 137 years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people**

Ismael died in 1773 BC, 48 years after his father Abraham died

See chart 2510      Ismael dies

Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
11	Terah	Terah dies	205	1921
12	Abraham	Leaves Harran	75	1921
12	Abraham	She is my sister (1st time)	75	1921
13-14		Abraham rescues Lot		
16	Abraham	Ismael born	86	1910
17	Abraham	Circumcision	99	1897
18-19	Lot	Sodom and Gomorrah	99	1897
20	Abraham	She is my sister (2nd time)	99	1897
21	Abraham	Isaac born	100	1896
22	Abraham	Abraham Tested	120	1876
23	Sarah	Sarah dies	127	1859
24	Isaac	Marries Rebekah	40	1856
25	Isaac	Esau and Jacob born	60	1836
25	Abraham	Abraham dies	175	1821
26	Esau	Marries two Hittites	40	1796
25	Ishmael	Ismael dies	137	1773
27 - 28	Isaac	blessing	137	1759
27 - 28	Jacob	Trip to Haran	77	1759
29	Jacob	7 years for Rachel	77-84	1752
29 - 30	Jacob	7 years and 11 kids	84-91	1752 - 1745
30	Jacob	Joseph born	91	1745

They settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt going toward Assyria; he settled in defiance of all his relatives.

See map 2515



Verses 19-22

**<sup>19</sup> Now these are *the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac;* <sup>20</sup> and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. <sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children; and the Lord answered him, and his wife Rebekah conceived. <sup>22</sup> But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why am I *in this condition?*" So she went to inquire of the Lord.**

**Now these are *the records of the generations of Isaac***

This is the 8th of the 10 divisions of Genesis

**Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.**

This was a good time to reveal how old Isaac was when he married Rebekah

Because we would have no idea how long they struggled to have children if this had not been revealed

**<sup>21</sup> Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was unable to have children**

Isaac and Rebekah faced the same trial that Abraham and Sarah struggled with

We know that Isaac and Rebekah had to wait for 20 years

**But the children struggled together within her**

Esau and Jacob would continue this struggle till late in their lives

**So she went to inquire of the Lord.**

Rebekah was a spiritual woman that was not afraid to approach God

Verse 23 - 24

<sup>23</sup> **And the Lord said to her,**

**“Two nations are in your womb;  
And two peoples will be separated from your body;  
And one people will be stronger than the other;  
And the older will serve the younger.”**

<sup>24</sup> **When her days *leading* to the delivery were at an end, behold, there were twins in her womb.**

**And one people will be stronger than the other;  
And the older will serve the younger.”**

God explained why there was a struggle going on between the boys

It turned out that God's answer to her was a prophecy

And Edom was an enemy of Israel throughout much of their history

Verse 25-26

<sup>25</sup> **Now the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau. <sup>26</sup> Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.**

## **Esau and Jacob**

Esau means "hairy"

Jacob means "supplanter"

Supplanter means one who wrongfully or illegally seizes and holds the place of another

In the case of Jacob, the name was prophetic

Isn't it interesting how this conflict began in the womb?

There are some mysteries in life that we won't understand until time comes to an end

Verses 27-34

**<sup>27</sup> When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a civilized man, living in tents. <sup>28</sup> Now Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. <sup>29</sup> When Jacob had cooked a stew *one day*, Esau came in from the field and he was exhausted; <sup>30</sup> and Esau said to Jacob, “Please let me have a mouthful of that red stuff there, for I am exhausted.” Therefore he was called Edom *by name*. <sup>31</sup> But Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” <sup>32</sup> Esau said, “Look, I am about to die; so of what *use* then is the birthright to me?” <sup>33</sup> And Jacob said, “First swear to me”; so he swore *an oath* to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and got up and went on his way. So Esau despised his birthright.**

**Now Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.**

Parents love all their children but it is not uncommon for them to gravitate to one of them that has gifts and abilities similar to their own

In this case Isaac was motivated by his stomach while Rebekah loved Jacob for his meek and quiet ways

**Esau said to Jacob, “Please let me have a mouthful of that red stuff there, for I am exhausted.”**

This request for food started out as an uneventful matter

But it was about to turn into a reckless blunder on the part of Esau

**But Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.**

Wow where did that come from?

It would seem that this had been on Jacob’s mind for some time and he used this moment of weakness in Esau to get his birthright

A description of the birthright and what it entails will be covered in chapter 27 when the rest of this story is revealed



**Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and got up and went on his way**

If we assume Esau understood what he was giving up for this one meal, then this cavalier attitude is incomprehensible

**So Esau despised his birthright**

There is no doubt that Esau lacked the qualities needed to be the family patriarch, but the way Jacob went about receiving it was unsavory (no pun intended) at best