

Genesis 25

Verses 1- 4

Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. ² She bore to him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. ³ Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. ⁴ The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, 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.

³² **The sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine, to whom she gave birth, were Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan were Sheba and Dedan.** ³³ **The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoah, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah.**

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 given the fact that Abraham was "as good as dead" when he fathered Isaac. That being the case how could Abraham father six more sons 40 plus years after that time?

But 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 to the story so another wife with other sons would have complicated the narrative. Therefore, Keturah and the other kids were introduced near the end of his life.

Verses 5-8

⁵ **Now Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac;** ⁶ **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.** ⁷ **These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, 175 years.** ⁸ **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.**

⁵ Now Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac; ⁶ 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 seems that Abraham had at least one other concubine with sons that went to the east along with Keturah and her sons.

See map 2505



⁷ These are all the years of Abraham's life that he lived, 175 years. ⁸ 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 had it all, a good relationship with God, great wealth, and many descendants.

Verses 9-11

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth; there Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. ¹¹ It came about after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac lived by Beer-lahai-roi.

⁹ Then his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron

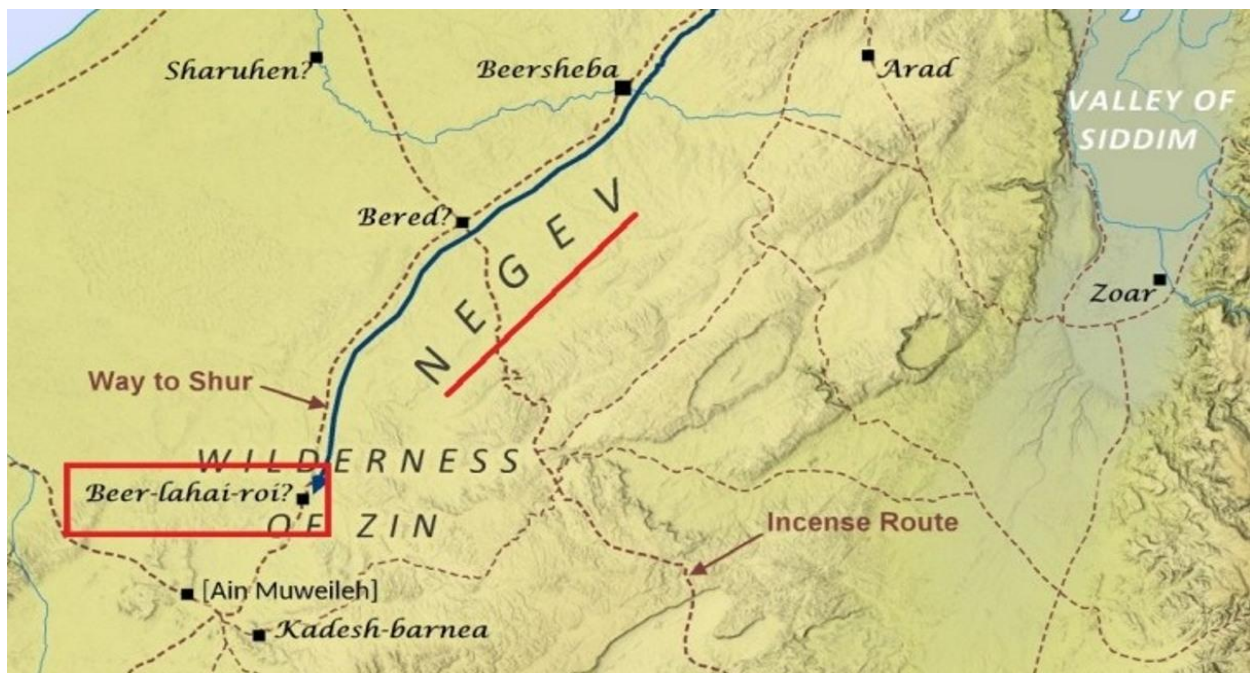
Apparently the sons of Keturah and the sons of his other wife were not present for the funeral.

Concerning the cave, this was covered in chapter 23. The video can we seen again by following the link below.

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.3.html>

¹¹ It came about after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac lived by Beer-lahai-roi.

See map 2510



This is where Isaac was living when he first saw his bride. This is also the place where Hagar found the well when she ran away from Sarah.

See Genesis 16:13 -14

¹³ **Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You are a God who sees me”; for she said, “Have I even seen *Him* here *and lived* after He saw me?”**

¹⁴ **Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.**

Verses 12-18

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

¹² **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.

¹³ **and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth:**

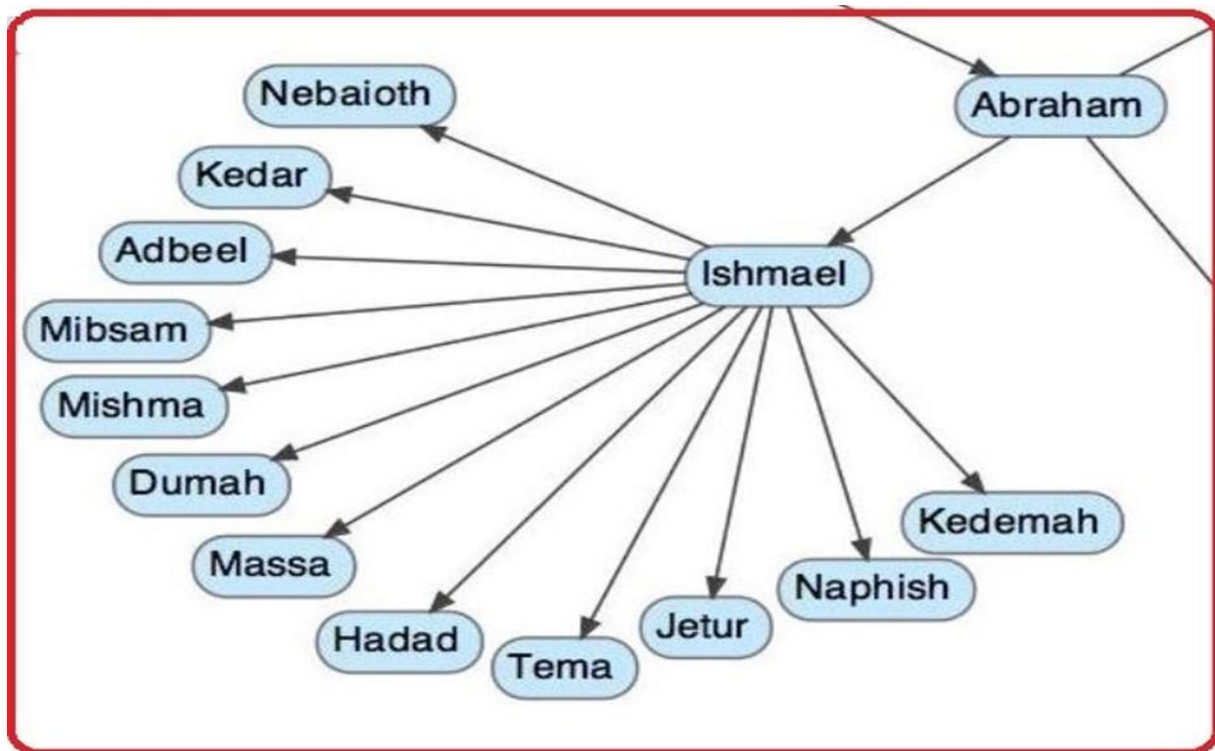
Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael, Kedar, Adbeel,

Mibsam, ¹⁴ Mishma, Dumah,

Massa, ¹⁵ Hadad, Tema,

Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.

See pic 2015



¹⁷ These are the years of the life of Ishmael, 137 years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.

See pic 2020

Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
13-14		Abraham rescues Lot		
16	Abraham	Ishmael 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	Ishmael dies	137	1773
27 - 28	Isaac	blessing	137	1759

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

¹⁸ They settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt going toward Assyria; he settled in defiance of all his relatives.

See map 2525



Verses 19 - 22

¹⁹ Now these are *the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son*: Abraham fathered Isaac; ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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. ²² 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.

**¹⁹ Now these are *the records of the generations of Isaac*, Abraham's son:
Abraham fathered Isaac;**

This is the 8th of the 10 divisions of Genesis.

²⁰ 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.

Revealing Isaac's age when he married Rebekah was important so we would know how long they struggled to have a child.

²¹ 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.

Isaac and Rebekah faced the same trial that Abraham and Sarah struggled with but the time frame was shorter. Isaac and Rebekah waited for 20 years. Not all prayers are answered as quickly as we would like.

²² 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.

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

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

Verses 23 - 24

²³ And the Lord said to her,

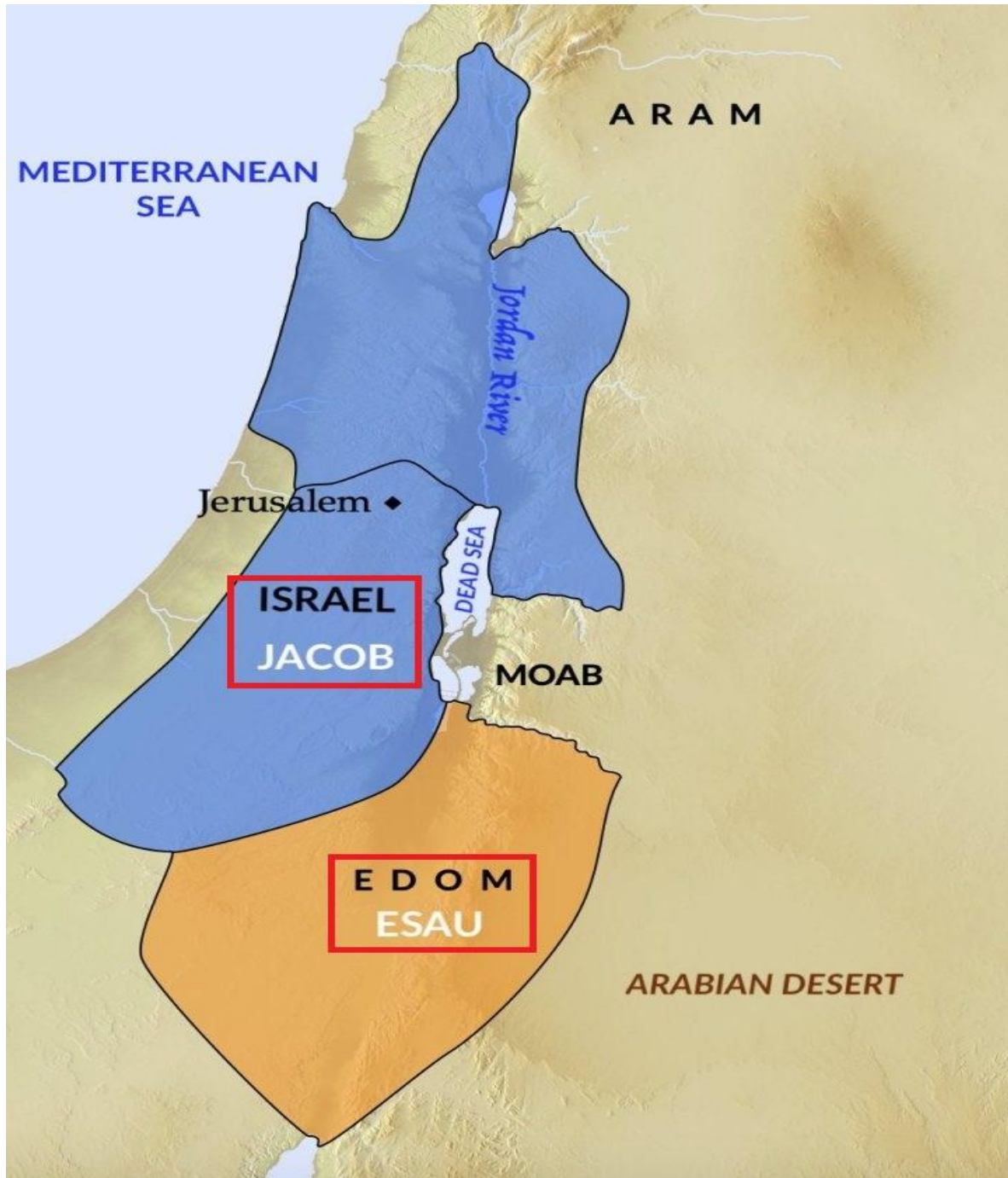
**"Two nations are in your womb;
And two peoples will be separated from your body;
And one people will be stronger than the other;
And the older will serve the younger."**

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

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

The two nations in her womb were Jacob (Israel) and Esau (Edom).

See map 2530



God explained why there was a struggle going on between the boys and it turned out that God's answer to her was a prophecy. Edom was an enemy of Israel throughout much of their history.

Verse 25-26

²⁵ Now the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau. ²⁶ 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 means "hairy" and 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

²⁷ When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a civilized man, living in tents. ²⁸ Now Isaac loved Esau because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹ When Jacob had cooked a stew *one day*, Esau came in from the field and he was exhausted; ³⁰ 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*. ³¹ But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." ³² Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so of what *use* then is the birthright to me?" ³³ And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore *an oath* to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ 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.

²⁸ 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.

³⁰ 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.

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.

³¹ But Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.”

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.

³⁴ 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.

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

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. ☺