

## Abraham's Death & Account of Ishmael (Genesis 25:1–18)

Grace Chapel November 18, 2009 Dr. John Niemelä

### INTRODUCTION

### CHRONOLOGY

Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 (Gen 21:5).

Isaac was 40 when he married Rebekah (Gen 25:20)

Isaac was 60 when Jacob and Esau were born (Gen 25:26)

Therefore, Abraham was 140 when Isaac married Rebekah  
and he was 160 when Jacob and Esau were born.

Abraham died at age 175 (Gen 25:7)

Therefore, Jacob and Esau were 15 when Abraham died.

Genesis 25:1–11 occurred when Abraham was between 140 and 175 years old  
(or between 137 and 175)

Therefore, Gen 25:26 (birth of J & E) occurred before Gen 25:7 (Abraham's death)

Why does Moses put the death of Abraham before the birth of Jacob and Esau?

Abraham's life & death belong to the *Toledot* of Terah (Gen 11:27–25:11)

Ishmael's life, death, & lineage belong to *Toledot* of Ishmael (Gen 25:11–18)

Jacob & Esau's births belong to the *Toledot* of Isaac (Gen 25:19–35:29)

Why is there no *Toledot* of Abraham?

## NEW EXPOSITION

### (25:1–11) Abraham' Death and the Special Inheritance to Isaac

#### (25:1–4) Abraham (after age 140) fathered sons, progenitors of various Arabian tribes

The NKJ translation says (verse 1) Abraham again took a wife

The word translated *wife* is the word for *woman*. Biblical Hebrew does not have a distinct word for *wife*. The question arises whether Abraham took Keturah as a wife or as a concubine.

Many would point to the word *again* in verse 1 to say that Abraham had taken Sarah as wife, so he again took a wife, Keturah.

However, note Gen 25:6,

*Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the land of the east*

The word *concubines* in plural. I would argue that there were at least two concubines: Hagar (Genesis 16) and Keturah (Genesis 25)

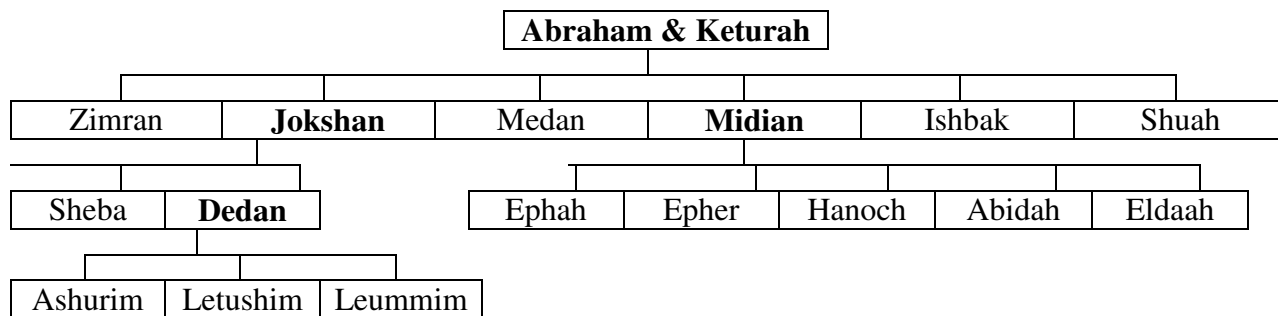
Within the context of Genesis 25, while Abraham was alive, he sent to the east his sons born to concubines. This includes the sons mentioned in Genesis 25:2 and Ishmael (cf. Genesis 25:18)

Therefore, I argue contextually that Keturah was a concubine, not a wife.

Excursus 1: We have seen that Abraham married his half sister and arranged for Isaac to marry a cousin. But Moses wrote Genesis to people who were coming under the Law. Just because Abraham did something did not mean that it was alright for the Israelites in Moses' day to do it. Neither does Abraham give precedent for people in the Church to do as he did.

Excursus 2: What do we know about marriage ceremonies in Abraham's day?

## The genealogies of Genesis 25:2–4



Note that Jokshan and Midian are the only sons for whom grandsons are mentioned. Moses emphasized these people, because the Israelites had dealings with their tribes.

The man Midian descended from Abraham, but not all who lived in Midian were his descendants

**Recap: (25:1–4) Abraham fathered sons, progenitors of various Arabian tribes**

**(25:5–6) Abraham gave the major inheritance to Isaac, but gave gifts to the other sons and sent them away (while he was alive)**

As w/ Ishmael (Gen 21) Abraham bore responsibility for his sons of concubines

**(25:7–10) Abraham died peacefully, Isaac & Ishmael buried him with his wife Sarah in the cave at Machpelah, which he purchased along with a field**

Isaac was 75 years old and Ishmael was 89

**(25:11) God blessed Isaac after Abraham's death in Beer Lahai Roi**

**(25:12–18) The Genealogy of Ishmael & His Death****(25:12–16) The genealogy of Ishmael****Ishmael**

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| N | K | A | M | M | D | M | H | T | J  | N  | K  |
| e | e | b | i | i | u | a | a | e | e  | a  | e  |
| b | d | d | b | s | m | s | d | m | t  | p  | d  |
| a | a | e | s | h | a | s | a | a | u  | h  | e  |
| j | r | e | a | m | h | a | r |   | r  | i  | m  |
| o |   | l | m | a |   |   |   |   |    | s  | a  |
| t |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | h  | h  |
| h |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |

According to Genesis 25:16, each of these was a progenitor to a tribe

**(25:17–18) The death of Ishmael****CONCLUSION**