

Death of Abraham

Genesis 25

Abraham's Last Days

Genesis 25:1-6

Abraham's Family: Genesis 25:1-4

Abraham Married Keturah

Following Sarah's death, Abraham remarried and was not reproved for doing so. There is nothing wrong with taking a spouse after the death of a previous one (1 Corinthians 7:8-9). Some believe this was done to fulfill the promise of being the father of many nations, but it was probably a practical marriage, Abraham being lonely and desiring a wife to share his life with (Genesis 17:4-5).

Nothing is known of Keturah except her name and relationship with Abraham. Keturah means incense or one that makes incense to burn. She was probably not a Canaanite woman, seeing how Abraham insisted that Isaac not choose a wife from their people. Evidently, she cared for Abraham and he for her (Proverbs 18:22).

Abraham and Keturah's Children

Little is known concerning their children. They were sent away before Abraham's death and made up what has become known as the Arab nations. Their names are provided but nothing of substance is said about them or their actions in life. The Bible and history have shed light on some of their activity but for the most part they remain a mystery.

1. *Zimran* – meaning song or singer.
2. *Jokshan* – meaning difficult or scandalous. His children were Sheba and Dedan. Grandchildren were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.
3. *Medan* – history indicates they united with the Midianites.
4. *Midian* – his descendants often allied with those in opposition to the Israelites (Genesis 31:25-36; Numbers 25:1, 6-15; Judges 6:3). His children were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah.
5. *Ishbak* - meaning forsaken, empty, or abandoned.
6. *Shua* – meaning pit, and implying humiliation.

Abraham's Estate: *Genesis 25:5-6*

Isaac's Inheritance

Isaac was made Abraham's heir and received all his earthly possessions (Genesis 24:35-36). This included his material possessions, land purchased, and money. This enabled Isaac to remain in the land as prominent and influential figure. Isaac was already the benefactor of the LORD'S promise (Genesis 17:19-21).

For Abraham this was an act of obedience. The LORD made it clear Isaac would receive the inheritance (Genesis 17:19, 21:12). It was not up for discussion. Abraham faithfully followed the LORD and settled the issue so no questions would arise after his death. This ensured Isaac would receive and keep the land the LORD promised him and his family. It is important to follow when the LORD directs.

Abraham's Responsibility

Abraham provided for the well being of his other children (1 Timothy 5:8). This included Hagar's son Ishmael and all of Keturah's sons. Both women were regarded as concubines. Though Keturah was Abraham's wife this may be how he viewed her, if so, it is too bad. Their sons were given gifts, ensuring they had no reason to go after Isaac and his possessions. Perhaps they were given small herds and other essentials required to establish and maintain a new life. They were sent away to the east, Arabia. These children had no claim on the land, so it was best for them to live elsewhere. For Isaac and his family, it was also good that those who might make a problem be removed to another place.

Abraham set things in order before he died and guaranteed Isaac would inherit his possessions. This helped keep peace in the family after Abraham's departure (Romans 14:19). Had this been neglected, trouble might have ensued. Arguments over possessions and claims on the land may have led to war between Isaac and Abraham's other sons. Many families have been destroyed over inheritances. It is wise to prepare a will and decide what will go where and to whom, not so much for your items but for your family.

Abraham's Death *Genesis 25:7-10*

Abraham's Long Life: *Genesis 25:7-8*

Abraham's Full Life

Abraham lived to be 175 years old, the LORD kept His word to him of a long life (Genesis 15:15; Psalm 116:15). For 100 years he lived in the land of promise, a century passed and Abraham remained faithful to the LORD. Life is measured by years, and days make up those years. Whether we live for the world or for the LORD will be determined by how we spend our days (Psalm 90:12, 103:15). Someone once said, "The life-time is spent in the days of the years, and at its end the years appear as days". Life is short and the world does not offer a good life (Psalm 144:4; James 4:14). Many die early due to the

results of sinful living and those that live to an old age are often miserable and finish life without joy (Proverbs 10:27).

Abraham lived a life for God and was blessed with old age (Psalm 37:18). He trusted the LORD and lived by faith (Romans 4:1-5). Remember, life is a gift from God and He determines the length (Hebrews 9:27). For those that desire to live longer, wisdom will lengthen our days (Proverbs 3:1-2, 13-16).

Abraham's Death

Like all people, Abraham faced death. Though he loved the LORD and walked with Him, Abraham was not exempt from dying.

1. *Abraham lived to an old age* – 175 years. Isaac was 75 and Esau and Jacob were 15 when Abraham died.
2. *Abraham was full of years* – implying his life was good and satisfying. Evidently Abraham was satisfied with life and ready to leave the world.

Upon death, Abraham gathered to his people, referring to the abode of his soul. In the following verses we are told what happened to his body but here the scriptures address the location of his soul. The place cannot refer to Ur or Haran, where his family resided, because he never returned to his homeland. It is not talking about the cave of Machpelah, where his body was buried, because only Sarah's body was in the cave at the time, not his people. It is clear that Abraham continued to exist, his body died but his soul remained alive. Many mistakenly believe that all life ends with death but that is not the case (Hebrews 9:27). Abraham's soul had a residence, it gathered with his people, referring to those like or similar to him. We find that Abraham was limited in life.

1. *In power over physical death* – Abraham faced death like every man before him and after him. Even God's faithful servants died (Ecclesiastes 3:20).
2. *In length of time* – Abraham lived in the generation the LORD placed him in and was unable to live forever on earth (James 4:14).
3. *In material possessions* – Abraham was blessed with material goods but took nothing with him to the grave (1 John 2:15-17).

Abraham's Funeral: *Genesis 25:9-10*

Abraham's Two Sons

The news of Abraham's death probably spread rapidly throughout the land. He was greatly respected and well known (Genesis 23:6). His sons Isaac and Ishmael were in attendance for the burial. Both were grown men and married. Ishmael evidently cared for Abraham and may have loved and respected him. Evidently, he was near enough to hear the news and travel to the funeral. What a scene,

the heads of two nationalities that would continue against each other, met to bury their father. It appears they acted in harmony and might have lived in peace with each other.

Abraham's Body Buried in Machpelah

There was no great funeral procession or grand ceremony for the man that would become the most respected in history. Isaac and Ishmael buried Abraham's body in the cave he purchased for Sarah's burial (Genesis 23:16-20). Abraham's body was laid to rest in the land the LORD promised to give him. Abraham lived by faith, died by faith, and is alive with the LORD today (2 Corinthians 5:6-8).

Conclusion

Eventually, Abraham faced what all must deal with, death. Even those that walk by faith and live for the LORD will die. Abraham left a wonderful testimony behind; he was not perfect but walked with a perfect God. You will die someday and stand before the LORD, are you ready? Eternal life is found only in Jesus Christ, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6*

Point to Ponder

Whatever possessions we have, we all have a grave at the end.

Quote

“A good old age begins with a good youth and a good manhood.” John Phillips

Questions

What did Abraham do for his family before his death?

How was Isaac blessed before Abraham's death?

How are we limited in this world?

Why should believers have no fear of death?

What new truth have you learned from this lesson?