

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #59

Genesis 25:1-11

As we come to the end of Abraham's life, which we have been tracking for 100 years, since he was 75 (Genesis 12:4), as John Phillips said, "It is impressive to see him, a full century later, going on as strong for God as on the day he first pulled out of Ur" (*Exploring Genesis*, p. 195). Abraham enjoyed physical and mental strength as a blessing of God until the day he died!

AS BELIEVERS GET OLDER AND NEARER TO DEATH, THOSE WITH ABRAHAMIC FAITH DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL AND SEE TO IT THAT THOSE WHO ARE LEFT BEHIND MAINTAIN A PROPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD SO HIS BLESSINGS MAY CONTINUE.

Abraham was not the kind of man who would sit around and do nothing. He did everything he could physically do to establish a lineage through which the Messiah would come.

ACTION #1 - Abraham produces children by Keturah. 25:1-4

The reason Abraham could not bear a son for so many years was because of God's program (Isaac was a type of Christ in his miraculous birth), and the reason he has so many children after Isaac was because of God's blessing.

The emphasis of these verses is on the fact that another lineage came through Abraham. Most of those in this list we know very little about, but it is believed that these sons of Keturah are mainly descendents of the Arab tribes (S. L. Johnson, *Genesis*, #40, p. 2). Dr. John Davis said many of these have been identified with various Arab tribes (*Paradise to Prison*, p. 231). It is known that some of the Midianites became hostile enemies of Israel and Sheba and Dedan will eventually take sides with Israel against God and Magog in the future. Ephah, with some of the Midianites, will also share in the Kingdom of God and seems to have been well established as a trading tribe (Isaiah 60:6) (S. R. Driver, *The Book of Genesis*, p. 241). This information is given prior to Abraham's death:

- 1) To establish the lineage history of Abrahamic humanity.
- 2) To establish that at an old age, Abraham was still enjoying life as a man.
- 3) To establish that God was faithful to fulfill His promises to him, even in twilight years (17:5).

ACTION #2 - Abraham gives his inheritance to Isaac. 25:5-6

Abraham gave gifts, probably money and cattle to all of his children, but he made it very clear that his inheritance, which included everything he had went to only Isaac. This particular text has caused serious students of Scripture to ask whether or not an unbelieving child is entitled to the same inheritance as the believing child, when the parent dies? Donald Grey Barnhouse said: "In passing, I do not believe that a parent has the right to leave property to an unsaved child. How often parents parcel out property as though it was theirs to dispose of! It is a trust from God for which they will be held strictly responsible" (S. L. Johnson, *Ibid.*, p. 3).

Abraham was an old man, but he was still an old faithful man with a discerning mind and he would only leave his land and wealth to Isaac, the son of promise.

ACTION #3 - Abraham dies and is buried by Isaac and Ishmael. 25:7-10

Fact #1 - Abraham's age at death. 25:7

Abraham was 175 years old when he died. He was 100 when Isaac was born (Genesis 21:5). Isaac was 60 when Jacob and Esau were born (Genesis 25:26). This means that when Abraham died, his grandchildren, Jacob and Esau were 15 years old. Isaac was 75 when his dad died.

We have followed Abraham for 100 years. All of his dreams didn't come true. He never saw His family enjoy the full dimensions of their promised land (15:18-21); he certainly had some personal moments of failure and sin (12:10-13; 16:1-16); and he endured his share of trials. But in the scheme of this man's life, he was faithful to God. Sooner or later, even God's best, must die and Dr. Johnson said, "God buries His workmen and carries on His work" (Ibid, p. 1).

Fact #2 - Abraham's condition at death. 25:28a-d

(Description #1) - He died a good man. 25:8a

That Hebrew word "ripe" means when Abraham died, he was a happy, kind, good and beautiful person (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 320). Truth is many older people become proud, stubborn, mean, ornery, grumpy and gross. Not Abraham, he blossomed in life right until the end.

(Description #2) - He died an old man. 25:81

The particular Hebrew word used for "old" indicates Abraham lived longer than those who are classified as old, (Ibid, p. 252).

(Description #3) - He died a satisfied man. 25:80

The word "satisfy" indicates Abraham lived and enjoyed a full life, he got the most out of life. At age 75, 100 years earlier, he made a decision to follow God and that led him into a wonderful, full, satisfied life. It will always lead people to this.

Fact #3 - Abraham's condition after death. 25:8d

The phrase "gathered to his people" indicates that Abraham was reunited with loved ones in eternity. All of his family members, who were believers, he met again. When you purpose to trust God, you cannot lose in life or in death.

Fact #4 - Abraham is buried after death. 25:9-10

Isaac and Ishmael put their differences aside and buried their dad. Abraham's impact was significant to his children. Death has a way of bringing family back together, at least for a brief moment of time.

ACTION #4 - Abraham's son Isaac is blessed by God. 25:11

God blessed Isaac and he lived near the well at Beer-lahai-roi, a place where God's presence was known. Where did Isaac get this idea of wanting to live close to God's presence? From dad!

Among all living men there has never been one greater than Abraham:

- 1) He had a special covenantal relationship with God (Exodus 2:24).
- 2) He had a special name connected to God (Exodus 3:6).
- 3) He was used as an example of faithfulness by God (Isaiah 51:2).
- 4) His name was used when others prayed to God (I Kings 18:36; Exodus 32:18; Deut. 9:27).
- 5) He was the only man in the O.T. to be called “friend of God” (11 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8)
- 6) He founded the lineage of Jesus Christ (Matthew 1:1; Hebrews 2:16; John 8:56).
- 7) He is the father of the nation Israel (Isaiah 51:2; Matthew 3:9; John 8:29; Luke 13 :16).
- 8) He has his own special place at death with his name (Luke 16:22).
- 9) He has an innumerable spiritual seed (Galatians 3).
- 10) He lived an ultimate life of faith (Hebrews 11:8-19).

No matter what your age, you purpose to trust God and follow His Word and your life and your eternity will be one of great blessing.