

Genesis 25:1-11
God's Purpose Prevails
April 21, 2021

Chapter 24 began with the indication that Abraham was old and well advanced in years; an indication that the spotlight of Genesis is shifting. The chapter then detailed the God-ordained events that led to Isaac and Rebekah's marriage.

In the chapter God's sovereignty and providence were clearly displayed.

- God's sovereignty is his right and power to do all that He decides to do.
- God's providence is God's seeing that absolutely everything that needs to be done to bring about His purposes happens.

The Word of God from beginning to end indicates that God's purpose prevails. Isa. 46:9b-10.

I. God's Purpose Prevailing in and through Abraham's Life (1-6)

"Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah." There are two schools of thought related to the timing of Abraham's marriage to Keturah and the birth of the children indicated. Some place the timing of this marriage and the births after Sarah's death because of the placement of this information in the narrative (after Sarah's death). Others place the timing of the marriage and births during a period when Sarah was still alive; a view which I support.

I believe the latter view due to:

1. Scripture's treatment of Isaac's birth as a miraculous event because of both Abraham's and Sarah's old age as seen in the following Scriptures:
 - Gen. 17:15-17
 - Gen. 18:10-12
 - Rom. 4:18-19
 - Heb. 11:12
2. The reference to Abraham's concubines in verse 6 (using a different Hebrew word than "wife" in verse 1) and the identification of Keturah as a concubine in 1 Chron. 1:32:

The sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bore Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan.

As we see this new list of children and their children's children we're reminded that in Gen. 17:5 Abram's name was changed by God from Abram which means "exalted father" to Abraham which means the "father of many or a multitude."

What is significant about Abraham's actions in verses 5-6?

II. God's Purpose Prevailing in and through Abraham's Death (7-11)

In verses 7-8 we read of Abraham's death which should once again remind us that the curse of sin, death, continues in Genesis. We also see a brief mention of the truth that man's existence does not end at death. Heb. 9:27.

As we look closer at Abraham's death we see further evidence of God's faithfulness:

- In verse 7 we're told that Abraham was 175 years old and died at a "good old age." Prov. 3:16, Prov. 17:6a, Gen. 15:15.
- The additional description of Abraham's death as "full of years" lessens some of the sting that typically comes with death. Ps. 1, Jo. 10:10.

Consider the events of Abraham's life since Gen. 12. What are characteristics of Abraham's life that have been displayed and how have these characteristics been an encouragement to you?

Read verses 9-11a carefully. Within the context of Gen. 25:1-11 and the wider context of what we've studied of Abraham's life since Gen. 12 what are the two contrasts that are displayed? What might these contrasts have communicated to the first hearers of Genesis? What might these contrasts communicate to us as Christians?

Application:

- Our lives should reflect a pattern of faith in and obedience to God. 2 Pet. 1:5-8, 1 Jo. 2:4-6
- We should thank God for His granting us every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- We should thank God that despite our rebellion against Him He sent His Son to atone for our sin and despite our faith and obedience that waiver from time to time he remains faithful to us. Phil. 1:6.