

Abraham's Natural Sons

Genesis 25: 1-18



God Keeps His Promises

Genesis 15:5 (NET) The LORD took him outside and said, “Gaze into the sky and count the stars – if you are able to count them!” Then he said to him, “So will your descendants be.”



Abraham's other Woman

¹ Abraham had taken another wife, named Keturah.

1 Chronicles 1:32 (NET)

³² The sons to whom Keturah, Abraham's concubine, gave birth: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan.

- There is disagreement over whether Abraham was married to Keturah before or after Sarah's death.
- Some Hebrew philosophers claim Keturah is Hagar. But the plural "concubines" in verse six suggests otherwise.

God Keeps His Promise Through Keturah

² She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. ³ Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. The descendants of Dedan were the Asshurites, Letushites, and Leummites. ⁴ The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah.

- They would all move to the east, toward Moab and Saudi Arabia.
- Midian is spoken of over 50 times in Scripture.
 - Moses escaped to Midian.
 - His father-in-law was a priest to the Midianites.
 - Midian formed an alliance with Moab and caused Israel to sin on the King's Highway. Israel attacked and killed all but the virgin women.
 - Midianites opposed Nehemiah
- Sheba is in southern Arabia – “Queen of Sheba”





Abraham Protects & honors God's promise

⁵ Everything he owned Abraham left to his son Isaac. ⁶ But while he was still alive, Abraham gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them off to the east, away from his son Isaac.

- Isaac is the son of inheritance and promise.
- Abraham loves and provides for his sons and concubines.
- 37 years have passed since Sarah's death. These aren't kids.

Abraham was blessed with a long life

⁷ Abraham lived a total of 175 years.

Genesis 15:15 But as for you, you will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.

- Even in death he fulfilled a promise.
- 100 years after he left Ur.
- 37 years after Sarah's death.
- Isaac is 75 years old, Ishmael 90, Jacob and Esau 15.

Abraham had a great life

⁸ Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man who had lived a full life. He

Luke 16:22 “Now the poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.

Matthew 22:32 ***‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’***? He is not the God of the dead but of the living!”

- Abraham died in a frame of mind filled with inner *shalom and satisfaction*. That is the thrust of the phrase *full of days (full life) or 'contented*.
- How many come to the end without regrets and filled with peace?
- He joined his ancestors

The Sons Love and Honor Their Father

⁹ His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar, the Hethite. ¹⁰ This was the field Abraham had purchased from the sons of Heth. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah. ¹¹ After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac. Isaac lived near Beer Lahai Roi.

- Isaac and Ishmael set aside differences for the Father.
- They honor him by burying him with Sarah.
- The blessing continues with Isaac.
- Beer Lahai Roi
 - Where God spoke to Hagar.
 - Where Isaac meditated while waiting for Rebecca.

God Fulfills a Promise through Ishmael

Genesis 17:18–20 ¹⁸ Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live before you!” ¹⁹ God said, “No, Sarah your wife is going to bear you a son, and you will name him Isaac. I will confirm my covenant with him as a perpetual covenant for his descendants after him. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will indeed bless him, make him fruitful, and give him a multitude of descendants. He will become the father of twelve princes; I will make him into a great nation.

Genesis 21:13 ¹³ But I will also make the son of the slave wife into a great nation, for he is your descendant too.”

God Did not forget His Promise to Abraham

¹² This is the account of Abraham's son Ishmael, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham.

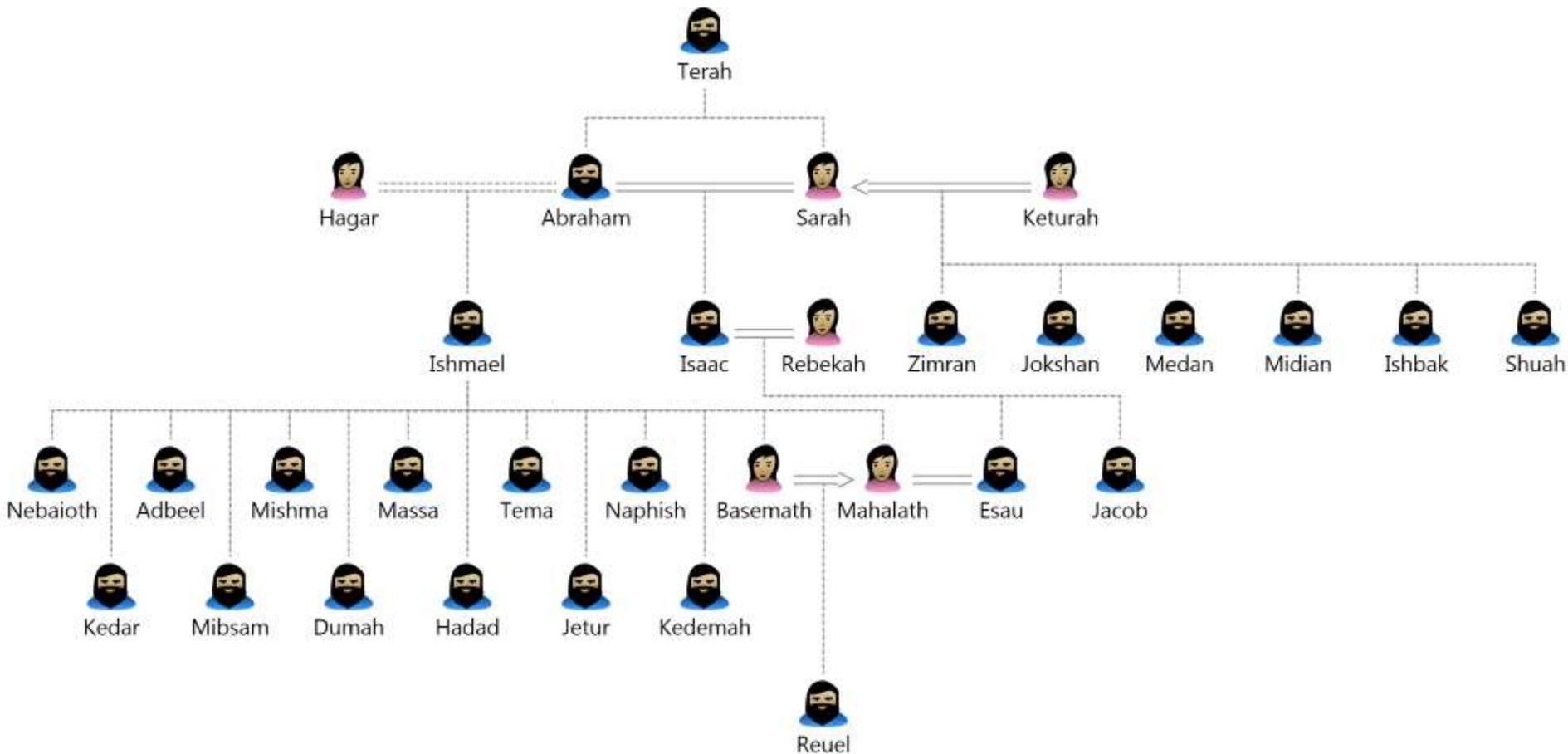


God Blessed the Descendants of Ismael

¹³ These are the names of Ishmael's sons, by their names according to their records: Nebaioth (Ishmael's firstborn), 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 settlements and their camps – twelve princes according to their clans.

- All lived in Arabia
- Ishmaelites sold Joseph in Egypt.
- They would be great merchants, controlling the trade routes, both on land and sea.
- Nebaioth would become powerful and wealthy even until the time of the Roman empire.
- Herod the Great's mother was a Nebaioth
- The king of Damascus at the time of Paul was of Nebaioth.
- Mohamed was an Ishmaelite.

God Blessed Abraham with Many Children



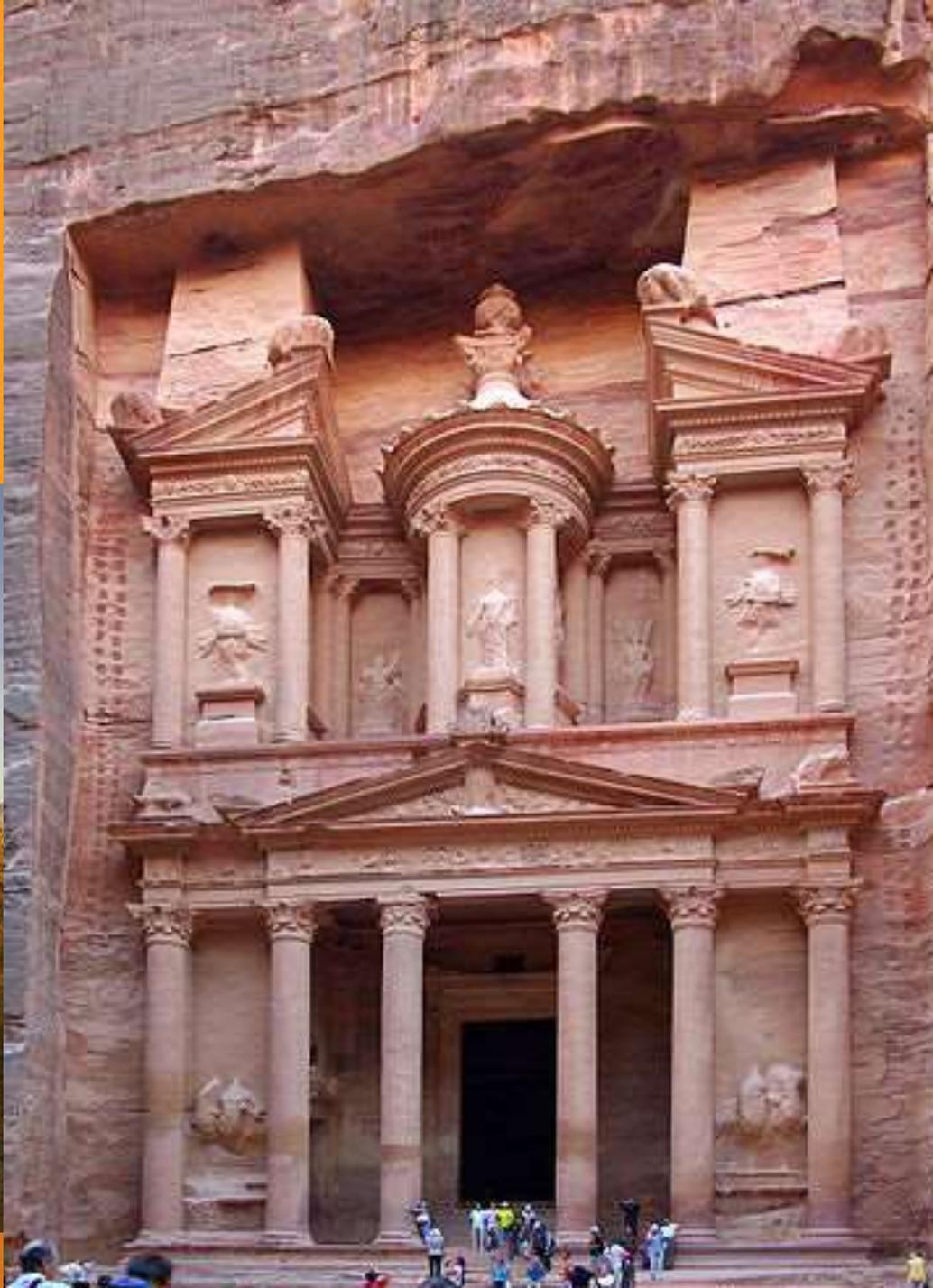
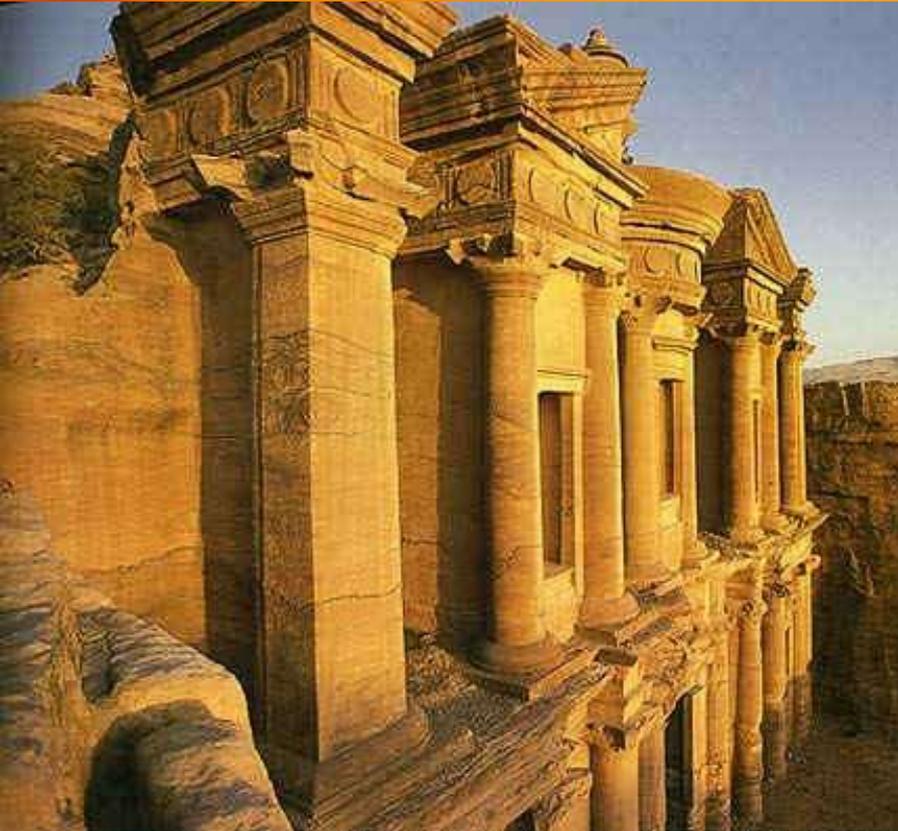
Ishmael was blessed with a long life

¹⁷ Ishmael lived a total of 137 years. He breathed his last and died; then he joined his ancestors.

¹⁸ His descendants settled from Havilah to Shur, which runs next to Egypt all the way to Asshur. They settled away from all their relatives.

Ishmaelites were secretive and hid their history. They were protective of their trading routes, where and how they received merchandise, and their water sources.

Nebaioth's hidden city of Petra





Only Isaac is of the Promise

Genesis 17:21 (NET) But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this set time next year.”

**All Abraham's Other Children Will
eventually serve him**



Children of Keturah and Hagar will honor descendents of Sarah in the Millennium

Isaiah 60:3–7 ³ Nations come to your light, kings to your bright light. ⁴ Look all around you! They all gather and come to you – your sons come from far away and your daughters are escorted by guardians. ⁵ Then you will look and smile, you will be excited and your heart will swell with pride. For the riches of distant lands will belong to you and the wealth of nations will come to you. ⁶ Camel caravans will cover your roads, young camels from Midian and Ephah. All the merchants of Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing praises to the LORD. ⁷ All the sheep of Kedar will be gathered to you; the rams of Nebaioth will be available to you as sacrifices. They will go up on my altar acceptably, and I will bestow honor on my majestic temple.

- Keturah's kids – Sheba, Midian and Ephah
- Ishmaelites –Kedar and Nebaioth.

Conclusions

- Being natural children of Abraham doesn't make one a child of God. Of all Abraham's Children, only Isaac was a child of God.

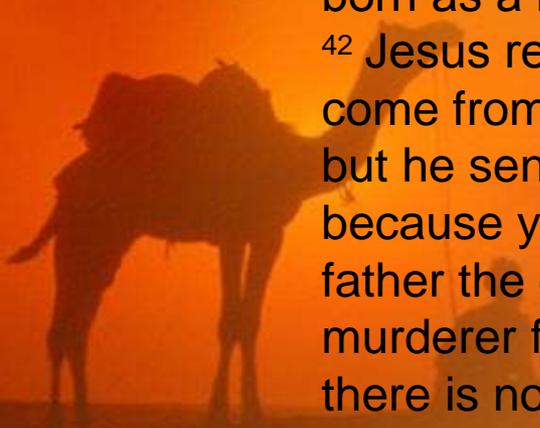
John 1:12–13 ¹² But to all who have received him – those who believe in his name – he has given the right to become God's children ¹³ – children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband's decision, but by God.



Conclusions

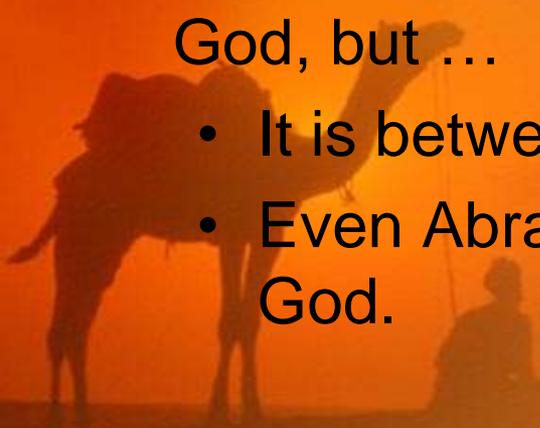
We can be deceived into believing we are Abraham's Children, thus God's Children

John 8:39–44 ³⁹ They answered him, “Abraham is our father!” Jesus replied, “If you are Abraham’s children, you would be doing the deeds of Abraham. ⁴⁰ But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth I heard from God. Abraham did not do this! ⁴¹ You people are doing the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Jesus, “We were not born as a result of immorality! We have only one Father, God himself.” ⁴² Jesus replied, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come from God and am now here. I have not come on my own initiative, but he sent me. ⁴³ Why don’t you understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot accept my teaching. ⁴⁴ You people are from your father the devil, and you want to do what your father desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not uphold the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.



Conclusion (cont.)

- As children of God we should desire our children to walk before God, to be children of God.
Gen. 17:18¹⁸ Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live before you!”
- Be a child of God. Live as a child of God. Pray your children will be children of God, inform them how to be Children of God, but ...
 - It is between them and God
 - Even Abraham had children that were not Children of God.



Conclusion (cont.)

- Only the Children of God can receive the full inheritance.
 - Natural Children may receive temporary gifts and benefits by association with the Children of God.
- Natural Children may live in temporary peace with the Children of God while receiving benefits.
 - Ishmael and Isaac lived together for a couple of years, got together for Abraham's death
 - The children of Keturah lived with Isaac before Abraham's death.



Conclusion (cont.)

- Natural Children will eventually be known by their opposition to the Children of promise.
 - Ishmael to Isaac
 - Esau and the Edomites to Jacob
 - The Medianites to Israel
 - The Ishmaelites to Israel and Christians



Conclusion (cont.)

Are you a child only by natural birth or also spiritual birth?

John 1:10–13 (NET) ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was created by him, but the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, but his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who have received him – those who believe in his name – he has given the right to become God's children ¹³ – children not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband's decision, but by God.



John 3:16 ¹⁶ For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

