

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

JN. 5:39



Jn. 5:39 “**Search the scriptures....they are they which testify of me.**”

Jn 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for **he wrote of me.**

Genesis 25:1-18

We began in Genesis with the beginnings of the human race.

- I. THE PRIMEVAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, 1:1—11:32
- II. PATRIARCHAL HISTORY: BEGINNINGS OF THE HEBREW RACE, 12:1—50:26
 - A. The Progenitor: Abraham, 12:1—25:11

1. The Path of Faith, 12:1-20
2. The Price of Faith, 13:1-18
3. The Power of Faith, 14:1-24
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 - (8) The Production of Faith, 24:59-67

Tonight, we observe the end of Abraham's life, "The Parting of Faith," representing the dispensation of God's dealing with the Israelites as the Father. The word *dispensation* is found in four verses in the New Testament:

1 Cor. 9:17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, **a dispensation** of the *gospel* is committed unto me.

Eph. 1:10 That in **the dispensation of the fulness of times** he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him:

Eph. 3:2 If ye have heard of **the dispensation of the grace of God** which is given me to you-ward:

Col. 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to **the dispensation of God** which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

❖ The Greek word, οἰκονομία, is also translated *stewardship*:

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy **stewardship**; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the **stewardship**: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the **stewardship**, they may receive me into their houses.

Original Word: οἰκονομία; **Transliteration:** oikonomia;

Definition: stewardship, administration

Usage: management of household affairs, stewardship, administration.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3622.htm>

❖ As we transition from a focus upon Abraham to his son, Isaac, we see the typology of changing dispensations, how God will deal with mankind regarding His Son, the Lord Jesus.

14. The Parting of Faith, 25:1-18

a. Abraham's Lineage via Keturah, 25:1-11

Gen. 25:1 Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name *was* Keturah.

2 And she bare him Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah.

3 And Jokshan begat Sheba, and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, and Letushim, and Leummim.

4 And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Hanoch, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these *were* the children of Keturah.

5 And **Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.**

6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.

7 And these *are* the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.

8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full *of years*; and **was gathered to his people.**

9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which *is* before Mamre;

10 The field which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth: there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife.

11 And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac dwelt by the well Lahairoi.

Gen. 25:1 Then again Abraham took **a wife, and her name was Keturah.**

❖ Who was Keturah? Was she a wife or a concubine?

1 Chron 1:32 Now the sons of **Keturah, Abraham's concubine**: she bare Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan; Sheba, and Dedan.

33 And the sons of Midian; Ephah, and Epher, and Henoah, and Abida, and Eldaah. All these *are* the sons of Keturah.

❖ Keturah was both a wife and a concubine, or perhaps, a concubine who became a wife.

❖ The same situation was with a warning and fulfillment to David:

2 Sam. 12:11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and **I will take thy wives before thine eyes**, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and **he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.**

2 Sam. 16:22 So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and **Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.**

- ❖ Compare Gen. 25:6a – “But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had...”
- ❖ The Rabbis describe her as a woman of virtue, for which she was worthy of being joined to Abraham. Though the Torah describes them separately, the rabbis often identify Keturah with Hagar, who they state came back to remarry Abraham after Sarah’s death. Her children are depicted both as the fulfillment of part of God’s promise to Abraham to be blessed by the nations and as a menace to Israel, like their brother Ishmael.

<https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/keturah-midrash-and-aggadah>

Original Word: קֶטוּרָה

Transliteration: Qeturah;

Definition: a wife of Abraham (“Incense”)

<https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6989.htm>

- ❖ Keturah gave birth to Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan. The people of Asshur, Leum, and Letush were descendants of Dedan.
- ❖ The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these sons came from the marriage of Abraham and Keturah. Before Abraham died, he gave some gifts to his sons who were from his bondservant women.

❖ He sent them to the East, away from Isaac. Then Abraham gave everything he owned to Isaac.

<https://biblestudyministry.com/abraham-and-keturah-and-their-sons/#:~:text=History%3A%20Zimran%2C%20also%20known%20as%20Zambran%20was%20one,of%20Zabran%2C%20which%20is%20between%20Mecca%20and%20Medina.>

Gen. 25:5 And **Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.**

6 But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.

❖ The typology of the Father giving all to the Son is seen in Jn. 5:22:

Jn. 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but **hath committed all judgment unto the Son:**

23 That **all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father.** He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. ...

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath **given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.**

b. Abraham's Lineage via Ishmael, 25:12-18

Gen. 25:12 Now these *are* the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's handmaid, bare unto Abraham:

13 And these *are* the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: the firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; and Kedar, and Adbeel, and Mibsam,

14 And Mishma, and Dumah, and Massa,

15 Hadar, and Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah:

16 These *are* the sons of Ishmael, and these *are* their names, by their towns, and by their castles; twelve princes according to their nations.

17 And these *are* the years of the life of Ishmael, an hundred and thirty and seven years: and **he gave up the ghost and died; and was gathered unto his people.**

18 And they dwelt from Havilah unto Shur, that *is* before Egypt, as thou goest toward Assyria: *and* he died in the presence of all his brethren.

❖ At Abraham's death, acknowledgment is given to his 12 sons via Hagar.

❖ Note that when Abraham died, he “went to paradise” before his burial, a refutation of “soul sleep.” See also the same said about Ishmael – 25:17.

25:7 And these *are* the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.

8 Then **Abraham gave up the ghost**, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full *of years*; **and was gathered to his people.**

9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, which *is* before Mamre;

10 The field which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth: there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife.

Summary

- ❖ Abraham dies at 175 years old, is buried with Sarah, and now, the Holy Spirit focuses upon Isaac.
- ❖ The typology = the Old Testament dispensation is basically God the Father, typified by Abraham dealing with Sarah (Israel.)
- ❖ Sarah is “put away” (Israel in A.D. 70) and God’s dealing with Israel is replaced by the Son (Isaac) with a new dispensation, the church age, focusing upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 15:15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,

16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

17 I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.

18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,

19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

21 But as it is written, **To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.**

Isa. 52:13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

15 So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: **for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.**

Conclusion

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Gen. 28:13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, **I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac**: the land whereon thou liest, to thee **will I** give it, and to thy seed;

14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

15 And, **behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee** in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for **I will not leave thee**, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.