

Study Guide for Nov. 22nd, 2009. Life of Abraham: Completion. Genesis 25:1-11.

Introduction: What is something you'd like God to do through your life before you die?

I. Descendants. (Gen. 25:1-4)

1. What is the name of Abraham's "other wife"? What is she called in vs. 6?
2. How many descendants come through her? (Note: I Chron. 1:28-34)
3. There is debate whether this happens after Sarah dies (chronologically) or much earlier in Abraham's life (the verb can be translated **had taken**) (anachronistically). What are the implications and difficulties with both scenarios?
4. How do you explain the practice of polygamy among some of the men of the Bible? (Consider: Gen. 2:18-25, 4:19; Ex. 21:10; Deut. 17:17; I Kings 11:3; & Mt. 19:1-9)

II. Disbursements. (Gen. 25:5-6)

1. What do the sons of Abraham's concubines receive? Where do they go?
2. What does Isaac receive? Where does Isaac live? (Gen. 25:11)
3. Reflect on Prov. 13:22. Apply it to Abraham and then to yourself.

III. Death. (Gen. 25:7-11)

1. How old was Abraham when he died? (Recall Gen. 12:4 & 15:15)
2. What words and phrases are used to describe this event?
3. Note: "Abraham's being gathered to his people occurs between his death and burial. It would seem this idiom testifies to a belief that man possesses an immortal element that survives the loss of life." (Waltke, Genesis, pg. 340 quoting Sarna)
4. What do you think is meant by the phrase **full of years**? (See also Job 42:16-17)
5. Who buries Abraham? Where do they do this? What does this represent?

Conclusions:

1. Review the record of Abraham's life (Gen. 11:27 – 25:11). What are some lessons that stand out for you as you think of how God developed Abraham's faith?
2. Contrast Ps. 92:12-15 with Eccles. 12:1-8. Then write a prayer expressing to God how you hope to conclude your life on earth.