

## Genesis 25.1-11

## “Passing of a Patriarch”

Last Chapter of Abe’s Life > Hears God’s “Well done, good and faithful servant”  
WALKED w/ God on Earth > 100 years > Now w/ God in Heaven > 4000 years

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but *he who stands firm to the end will be saved.* Matthew 24.12,13

1. Survivors who Remained
2. Will that Reminded
3. Eulogy we Read
4. Legacy we Remember

## 1. Survivors who Remained

a. Multitude Lived long enough to see God’s Promise Coming True

“Abram” = Exalted Father > Many years Painful > Childless, Shamed, Ridiculed  
“Abraham” = Father of Multitude > New Name after One Son > BEGAN TO SEE

17.5 “No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations.”

vs. 2-4 “Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah. Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan; the descendants of Dedan were the Asshurites, the Letushites and the Leummites. The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida and Eldaah.”

6 Sons > 7 Grandsons > 3 Great Grandsons >> Many unnamed Daughters

Ishmael 25.16 “sons of Ishmael, and these are the names of the 12 tribal rulers”

In his advancing years – ABE Looked more like a “Father of a Multitude”

b. Mercy If you do the math you’ll say... “*Hey, wait a minute!*”

30 years passed since Sarah Died > had GRANDCHILDREN with KETURAH

v. 1 “Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.”

v. 6 “the sons of his concubines” > MORE THAN JUST KETURAH

CREATION PATTERN 2.24 “a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”

LATER – after FALL into Sin

4.19 “Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah”

“King Solomon... had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines” 1 Kings 11.3 – *one thousand mothers in law!!*

BASIS of Polygamy > Mormons & Muslims > *Holy* Polygamists Abe & Solomon

CREATION PATTERN CONTINUES > Jesus answered Pharisees

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator `made them male and female,' and said, `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Matthew 19.4-6

EXAMPLES of Scripture > NOT ALL GIVEN AS MORAL GUIDELINES

Moses' Murder > David's Adultery > Peter's Denials > Abraham's Concubines

NOT how to BEHAVE > Why we need to REPENT > Dependence on GRACE

Four Months of Sermons > 100 years of Walking with God > still a SINNER

80 yr old man & teenager WALKING ON CROWDED BEACH > both Xtians

Teenager “Sir, when you get older, do you stop having problems with lust?”

80 yr. old : “I hope it will get better when I turn 90”

THEME Verse > All of Life > I need your saving mercy, oh God!!

15.6 “Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness”

ABE'S FINAL TESTIMONY // PAUL'S

“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Romans 7.15-25

## 2. Will that Reminded

a. Prepared ABE was READY to Go > Plans made > NO FIGHTING!

v. 9 “His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah”

Less than 50% of all Americans have a WILL > Delight of Funeral Directors  
PROFIT from Confusion, Pain, Many times Fighting when Family Member Dies

Even WITHOUT a WILL you’ll STILL DIE > Many THINK Will = BAD LUCK  
“man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” Hebrews 9.27

ABE WAS NOT LIKE MAN JESUS DESCRIBED –

"The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "'But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' Luke 12.16-20

CANNOT TAKE IT WITH YOU > But can send it AHEAD > Giving to GOD

b. Partial v. 5 “Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac” > NOT FAIR!?!?!

HAVING pastored Many Families at Times of Death > IMAGINE FIGHTS!!

76 yrs BEFORE > God to Abe > 17.21 “my covenant I will establish with Isaac”

GOD PARTIAL - v. 11 “After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac”

FULFILLMENT of PLAN 12.3 “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”

2000 years later > MISSION ACCOMPLISHED > Blessing IN CHRIST  
“the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus”  
Galatians 3.14

FAIR > is what GOD CALLS FAIR > His World > His Rules > His Plan

ABE HIMSELF SAID - 18.25 “Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

Choice > WILL WE BLAME GOD OR BLESS GOD?

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy...Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden." Romans 9.14-18

### 3. Eulogy we Read

ABE'S FAITH GREW thru 100 years of WALKING with GOD > Good Measure:

"Make every effort to add to your faith *goodness*; and to goodness, *knowledge*; and to knowledge, *self-control*; and to self-control, *perseverance*; and to perseverance, *godliness*; and to godliness, *brotherly kindness*; and to brotherly kindness, *love*. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1.5-8

We can SEE these SEVEN QUALITIES in Abraham's Life

#### a. Goodness MORAL EXCELLENCE

Ch 13 UNSELFISHLY Allowed RUDE YOUNG NEPHEW Lot > Take Best Land

Ch 14 RISKED OWN LIFE to RESCUE that Nephew from his CAPTORS

REFUSED TEMPTATION TO CORRUPTION in offer of King of Sodom  
14.22,23 "Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, `I made Abram rich.'"

#### b. Knowledge Walked w/ TRUE & LIVING GOD > Knew Him More and More

"All of his life Abraham was a student in God's college of divinity" F.B. Meyer

No Bible, Church: Not even any Christian web-sites > GOD REVEALED Himself

12.1 "The LORD had said to Abram"

14.19 "God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth."

15.1 "I am your shield, your very great reward"

16.13 "the God who sees me"

17.1 "God Almighty"

21.33 "the LORD, the Eternal God"

22.14 "The LORD Will Provide"

24.3 "the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth"

"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17.3

"I believe in everything, in anything that anybody believes in, because I believe in people. In other words, I believe in belief. I believe in faith." Leonard Bernstein

Wonderfully Tolerant / Unprejudiced / Accepting / Inclusive??? WICKED!!  
DENIES only way to Life > Only Hope of Mankind > Jesus Christ

TODAY > 4000 yrs AFTER ABE > We have BIBLE & CHURCH  
Take Advantage of EVERY OPPORTUNITY to KNOW GOD BETTER

c. Self Control VICTORY over SELF, esp. SINFUL DESIRES > SUBMISSION

Abe had some GLARING FAILURES > also some STELLAR EXAMPLES

Plead w/ GOD: Sodom be Spared > 1<sup>st</sup> Intercessory Prayer in Bible > Holy Boldness

After Sodom Destroyed > Stood in Silent SUBMISSION > Trust God's Wisdom

"We do not find Abraham arguing with God, trying to find a way out, or even thinking up excuses to try to delay doing what he had been told to do...as we see him going about his obedience in a deliberate and methodical way...He was walking with God on the day of his death just as much as he had been when he set out from the Ur of the Chaldeans more than 100 years before" James Boice

d. Perseverance v. 8 “Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age”

Today TOO MANY come to a BAD OLD AGE

“How few people really experience joy and satisfaction when they reach old age!  
When they look back it is with regret; when they look ahead it is with fear; and  
when they look around it is with complaint” Warren Wiersbe

ABE HAD A LONG TIME TO GET THINGS RIGHT

“I wonder if our short lives make a mockery of spiritual development. These guys spent more time learning what they were supposed to be doing than I can reasonably be expected to live even with good medical insurance. I suppose that's a pretty lame cop-out, huh?” ICF Member

ONLY GOD KNOWS WHETHER YOU WILL LIVE YOUR LIFE LONG >  
But you can do all in your power to Live your Life WELL

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going...If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11.8,15,16

e. Godliness WORSHIP was NORMAL and NATURAL Part of Abe’s Life

17.1 “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.”

12.7 “he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him”

12.8 “There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD”

13.3 “where he had first built an altar...Abram called on the name of the LORD”

13.18 “Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD”

22.9 “they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there”

ABE’S GODLINESS WAS CONTAGEOUS

26.25 “Isaac built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD”

f. Brotherly Kindness > must be ADDED to Faith

Seen in GREAT PATIENCE and ACTIVE CONCERN for Nephew Lot

ADMIRER BY PAGAN NEIGHBORS

23.6 “Sir, listen to us. You are a mighty prince among us.”

EVEN SONS WHO RECEIVED NO INHERITANCE Honored him at Death

g. Love > MATCHLESS VIRTUE, CROWNS ALL THE OTHERS

For FIRST BORN SON 17.18 "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

LOVE FOR ISAAC 22.2 “your only son, Isaac, whom you love”

LOVE for WIFE 23.2 “Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her”

LOVE FOR GOD > God Himself calls Abe His Friend “O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of *Abraham my friend*” Isaiah 41.8

ABRAHAM > Despite his Failures > GREAT MODEL and EXAMPLE > Father  
2<sup>nd</sup> Most Important MAN in Bible > after the Lord Jesus Christ > Worthy of Study

BIBLE Emphasis > Gen 1-11 > HISTORY Thousands of Years > Millions People  
Gen 12-25 > 14 Chapters > Primary FOCUS on ONE MAN > Father Abraham

#### 4. Legacy we Remember

a. Completion v. 8 “an old man and full of years”

Like a DINER who pushes himself away from table “I am full!!”

Abe DIED FULL > COMPLETE > God’s Purpose was Fulfilled in his Life

LIFE ENDS WHEN GOD’S WORK FOR US IS FINISHED > Paul’s Last Letter  
“For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4.6-8

“I am immortal until the will of God for me is accomplished” David Livingstone

CONFIDENCE > Walk with God in Life > Taken by God into the Next Life

Jesus our “merciful and faithful high priest...shared in our humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.” Hebrews 2.14-17

b. Continuation v. 8 “and he was gathered to his people”

MEANING? He was buried in SAME TOMB as Sarah > MORE ALSO...

TOOK HIS PLACE AMONG HEROES OF FAITH > Adam to Noah  
“we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses” Hebrews 12.1

ABE called “Friend of God” THREE TIMES in Bible > Once by God Himself

One Day Abe & God took LONG WALK > Got VERY LATE, DARK  
God said to Abe “Abe, my house is closer than yours. Come Home with Me!”

2000 yrs after Abe’s Death > Jesus taught about RESURRECTION LIFE  
Jesus replied...about the resurrection of the dead--have you not read what God said to you, ‘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.” Matthew 22.31,32

c. Church STAR SHINES for ME & YOU who Believe in God of Abraham,  
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

“Understand, then, that *those who believe are children of Abraham*. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you.' So those who have faith are *blessed along with Abraham*, the man of faith.” Galatians 3.7-9

Blessed ALONG WITH > NOT ‘because of’ > Blessed BECAUSE OF JESUS

FIRST SENTENCE OF NEW TESTAMENT

“A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham”  
Matthew 1.1

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.  
Galatians 3.16

ISAAC was a Type > JESUS is the Fulfillment

ISAAC was a SHADOW > JESUS is the SUBSTANCE

ISAAC was TEMPORAL > JESUS is ETERNAL

“He (God) redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.”  
Galatians 3.14

ABRAHAM > Gathered with his People > Who will YOU be Gathered with?

Summer Job > Factory run by BIG ED & staff of unbelieving workers > Difficult  
Shared my Faith in Jesus with Ed and the Guys

*Ed “I know I am going to hell, but I’ll be there with all these other guys too!”*

Ed shot and killed by Neighbor for Fooling Around with Neighbor’s Wife

Company you keep on Earth > Probably the Company you will keep in Eternity

Is Abraham YOUR Spiritual Father? > You FOLLOWING his Footsteps of Faith?

Are you ADDING his Qualities to your Faith? >> Goodness...knowledge...  
self-control...perseverance...godliness...brotherly kindness...love.

May YOU be Gathered with JESUS > United to Him > NOW and FOREVER

## Genesis 25

1. Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah.
2. She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah.
3. Jokshan was the father of Sheba and Dedan; the descendants of Dedan were the Asshurites, the Letushites and the Leummites.
4. The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah.
5. Abraham left everything he owned to Isaac.
6. But while he was still living, he gave gifts to the sons of his concubines and sent them away from his son Isaac to the land of the east.
7. Altogether, Abraham lived a hundred and seventy-five years.
8. Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people.
9. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite,
10. the field Abraham had bought from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried with his wife Sarah.
11. After Abraham's death, God blessed his son Isaac, who then lived near Beer Lahai Roi.