

The Death of Abraham – *every promise fulfilled!*

Purpose: Abraham obeyed God and became a difference maker. My aim is to show that if we trust God to the end, we will also become difference makers and will see God's blessing and favour, as did Abraham.

At last, we come to the death of Abraham. Once again we find ourselves at what seems to be an obscure chapter of Genesis that seems to be hard to understand, but what can we learn here?

Although Abraham and Isaac are the main characters, there are two people mentioned as well: Read from verse 1 to verse 18

Who was *Keturah*?

She was Abraham's concubine (Gen. 25:6; 1 Chr. 1:32)

Another genealogy – why?

- To show that God gave other children to Abraham and what became of them:
 - They were given gifts, which meant that he looked after them and had not forgotten them
 - They were sent to the country of the east, away from Isaac
- To show that the inheritance went to Isaac, the child of promise
 - He inherited the main part of his substance and his right to the land of Canaan
 - He inherited the blessing of his father, Abraham

Ishmael is suddenly mentioned. What can we learn about him?

- He helped bury his father Abraham with his brother Isaac which means:
 - He lived much nearer than Abraham's other sons, in the south (Wilderness of Paran)
 - He and Isaac must have communicated because he knew when Abraham had died

- The two of them must have worked out their differences, since they buried their father together
- His genealogy is mentioned:
 - God kept his promise to Abraham
 - Genesis 17:20

And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

There is something very significant in verse 8:

Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

He died "...in a good old age..."

- It wasn't a "bad old age" – it implies that it was time to go and that he was healthy and his death an easy one
- Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them"

He was "...an old man and full of years..."

- It implies that his years were "full", or fulfilled. The years of his life were good and he was satisfied:
 - The life of faith is a satisfying one
 - Satisfaction in life comes from doing God's will
 - The life of faith makes you ready for the next life

"...And was gathered to his people"

- This tells us that he was prepared for life after death

Hebrews 12:22,23

22 - But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

23 - to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Hebrews 11:8-10

8 - By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 - By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

10 - for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Conclusion

Abraham obeyed God and became a “difference maker”. God used trials and difficulties to shape and mold him into a man of faith. Abraham stayed the course, learned from his mistakes, and became the father of all who believe. Just like Job, David, and many others who obeyed God, the end of his life was better than its beginning. If you trust God to the end, you will also become a difference maker and see God’s blessing and favour as Abraham did.