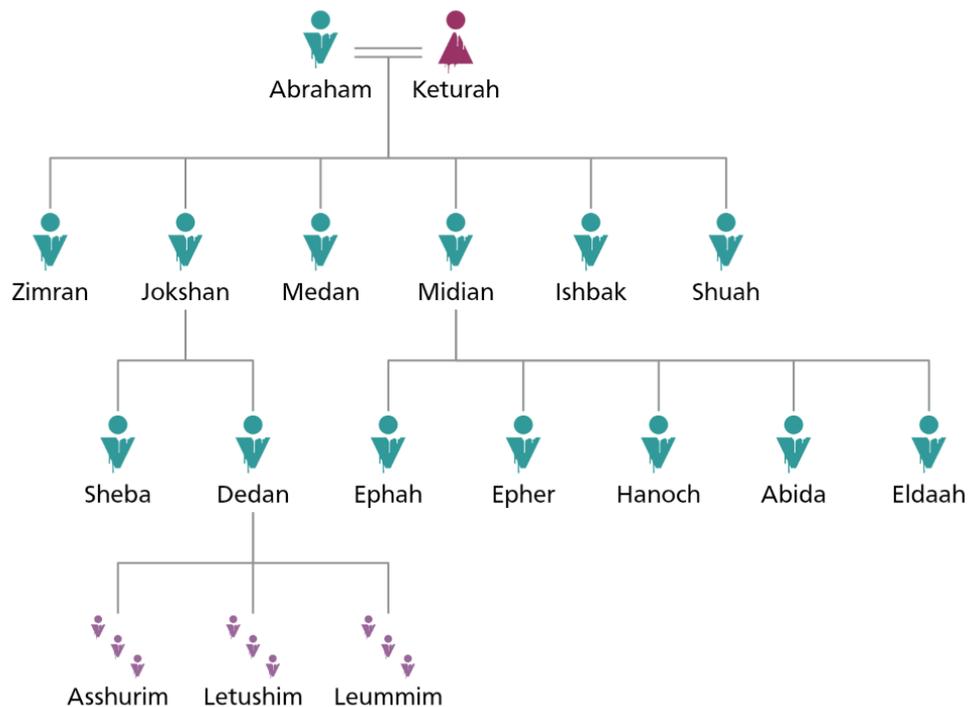
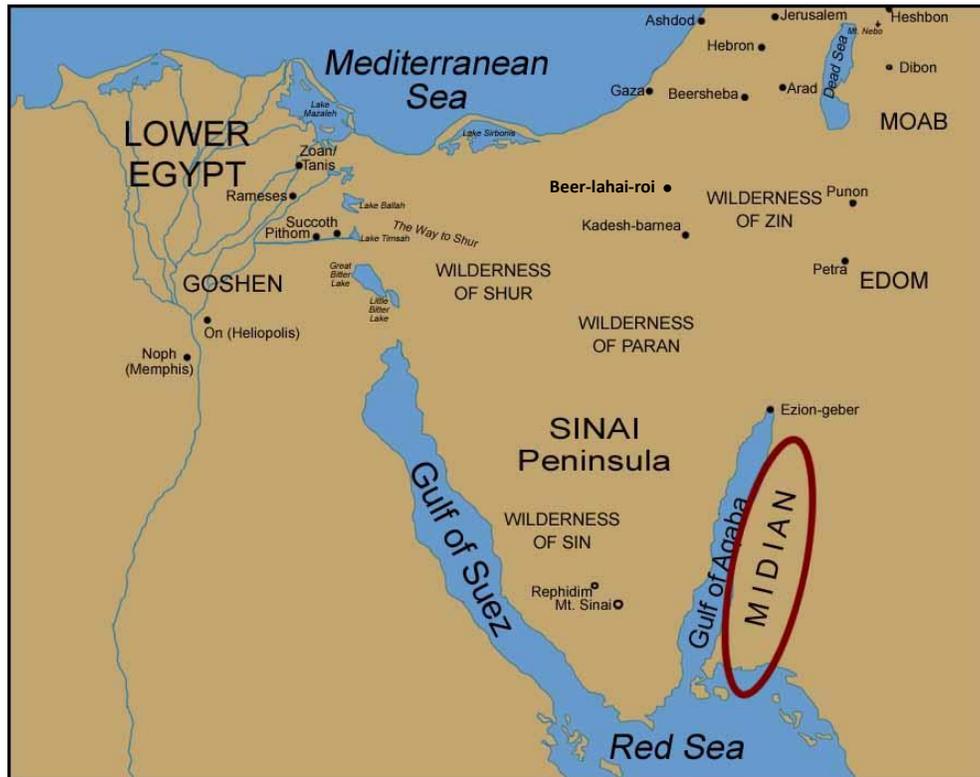


Read Genesis 25:1-11

- At the beginning of Genesis 23, we learned that Sarah died at the age of 127. How many years did Abraham live after Sarah's death?
- Was Abraham a practicing polygamist?
- Look at the description of Keturah in verses 1 & 6 (also 1 Chronicles 1:32). What does that tell you about Keturah?
 - 1 Chronicles 1:32 – *The sons born to Keturah, Abraham's concubine: Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.*
- Note the descendants of Abraham through Keturah. What do we know about them?





- What do we learn about the Midianites from the following verses?
 - Genesis 37:36 – ³⁶ *Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guard.*
 - Judges 6:1-6 – *The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD handed them over to Midian seven years, ² and they oppressed Israel. Because of Midian, the Israelites made hiding places for themselves in the mountains, caves, and strongholds. ³ Whenever the Israelites planted crops, the Midianites, Amalekites, and the Qedemites came and attacked them. ⁴ They encamped against them and destroyed the produce of the land, even as far as Gaza. They left nothing for Israel to eat, as well as no sheep, ox or donkey. ⁵ For the Midianites came with their cattle and their tents like a great swarm of locusts. They and their camels were without number, and they entered the land to waste it. ⁶ So Israel became poverty-stricken because of Midian, and the Israelites cried out to the LORD.*

- Why did Abraham send away all his sons, but Isaac?
- What do you notice about the burial of Abraham?
- What important detail is found in verse 11?

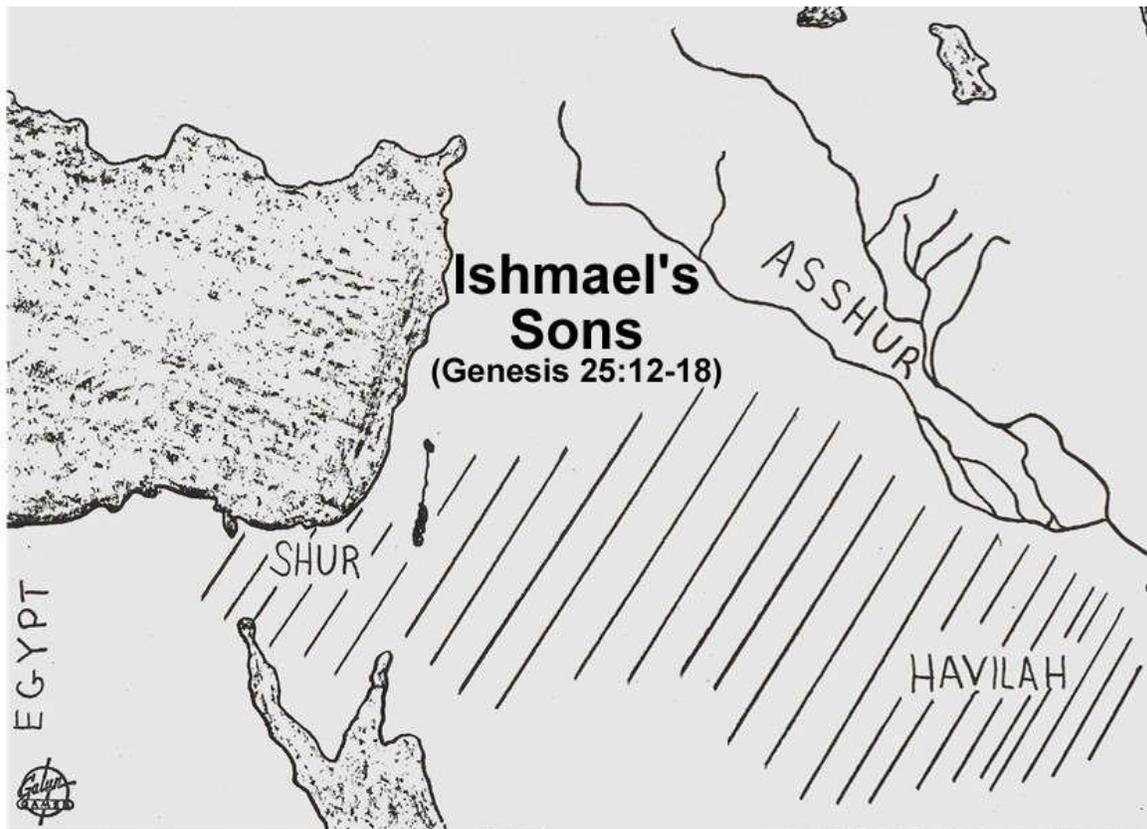
As we continue remember the structure of the book of Genesis:

“To appreciate the unique structure of the book of Genesis, it will be helpful to remember that Moses arranged his literary material in ten sections, each introduced by the formula ‘This is the account of...’ These ten accounts are minihistories and illustrate how from the very beginning of time God has been interested and active in establishing a family of believers...In each case, the account does not tell us of the *origin* of the person or thing named but of its *subsequent history*, and always with reference to God’s great plan of salvation.” (People’s Bible: Genesis, p.5)

1. Heaven and Earth	(2:4-4:36)	6. Terah	(11:27-25:11)
2. Adam	(5:1-6:8)	7. Ishmael	(25:12-18)
3. Noah	(6:9-9:29)	8. Isaac	(25:19-35:29)
4. Sons of Noah	(10:1-11:9)	9. Esau	(36:1-27:1)
5. Shem	(11:10-26)	10. Jacob	(37:2-50:26)

Read Genesis 25:12-18

- What important details are found in the Toledoth of Ishmael?
 - Genesis 16:11-12 – ¹¹ *Then the Angel of the Lord said to her: You have conceived and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard your cry of affliction.* ¹² *This man will be like a wild donkey. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone’s hand will be against him; he will live at odds with all his brothers.*
 - Genesis 21:12-13 – ¹² *But God said to Abraham, “Do not be concerned about the boy and your slave. Whatever Sarah says to you, listen to her, because your offspring will be traced through Isaac.* ¹³ *But I will also make a nation of the slave’s son because he is your offspring.”*



Read Genesis 25:19-26

- Note: because of the way that Genesis is structured, not everything is written in chronological order. What detail here shows that?

- Sarah had been barren, and now Rebekah was barren. How did God use this for the spiritual good of the patriarchs and their families?

- When Rebekah finally conceived what problem happened? What didn't she know?

- Rebekah inquired of the LORD as to what was happening. What was God's response?

- Note the names of the children:
 - Esau = "hairy" / Edom (v.30) = "red"
 - Jacob = "heel-grabber"

Read Genesis 25:27-34

- What is the birthright?
 - Deuteronomy 21:17 – ¹⁷ *He must acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved wife, by giving him two shares of his estate, for he is the firstfruits of his virility; he has the rights of the firstborn.*
 - Genesis 27:27-29 – ²⁷ *So he came closer and kissed him. When Isaac smelled his clothes, he blessed him and said: Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed. ²⁸ May God give to you— from the dew of the sky and from the richness of the land — an abundance of grain and new wine. ²⁹ May peoples serve you and nations bow down to you. Be master over your brothers; may your mother’s sons bow down to you. Those who curse you will be cursed, and those who bless you will be blessed.*
 - Genesis 28:4 – ⁴ *May God give you and your offspring the blessing of Abraham so that you may possess the land where you live as a foreigner, the land God gave to Abraham.”*

- What parenting issue do you notice here?

- What’s wrong here?
 - “We learned earlier that Jacob was perfectly content to let his brother roam the fields, while he stayed closer to home. Here we meet him boiling a pot of lentil soup. It may very well be that he and his older twin had discussed the privileges that went with being the firstborn, and that he had sensed Esau did not value those privileges highly. Even though God had promised those privileges to the younger twin, Esau considered them his rightful property, and apparently so did his father Isaac (27:29). Jacob considered those privileges rightfully his and looked for an opportunity to make sure he got them.”

(People’s Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.213-214)

- What light does the following verse shed on this situation?
 - Hebrews 12:16-17 – ¹⁶And make sure that there isn't any immoral or irreverent person like Esau, who sold his birthright in exchange for one meal. ¹⁷For you know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected because he didn't find any opportunity for repentance, though he sought it with tears.

- Note: Esau's descendants (known as the Edomites) will later become bitter enemies of the people of Israel.

“With the exception of the forbidden fruit, that bowl of lentil soup has got to be the most expensive meal anybody ever bought.”

(People's Bible Commentary: Genesis, p.214)