

## The Birth of a Nation A Study in Genesis 25-36

A Passing Generation  
Genesis 25:1-18  
January 31, 2021

Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.  
-Genesis 25:8

### I. A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS (VSS. 1-6; 12-18)

- Abraham's children through Keturah were loved and cared for but were sent away to ensure the blessing of Isaac (Gen. 17:18-19; Rom. 9:7; Heb. 11:18).
- The *toledot* or "generations" of Ishmael demonstrate God to be true to his promise. Ishmael, the son of Abraham, would also father twelve princes (Gen. 17:20-21).
- We must guard the trust given to us, and pass our blessings on to the next generation (Deut. 6:6-8; Ps. 34:11; 2 Tim. 2:1-2).

### II. SERVING OUR PURPOSE (VSS. 7-11)

- Both Abraham and Ishmael lived long lives. They served their purpose, and then they died. So will we (Gen. 25:7, 17; Acts 2:29).
- We must work while it is light. We do not know how many years we will have as Christ-followers, but we have work to do each day (John 9:4; Phil. 1:20-25; 2 Peter 1:12-15).
- Working hard in the kingdom of God does not always mean making big waves in this life (1 Tim. 2:1-3).
- When all is over in this life for us, Jesus has told us what we should hope to be able to say (Luke 17:7-10).

**KNOW:** Abraham lived 175 years, served his purpose in his generation, and then was "gathered to his people." We are pilgrims passing through this life. We must be purposeful about it.

**DO:** Serve your purpose in your generation faithfully.

#### Suggested Reading:

*A Chance To Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael* by Elisabeth Elliot (LifePoint Library #266.132)

*Just Do Something* by Kevin DeYoung (LifePoint Library #248.4 DEY)

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

##### Please Read Genesis 25:1-18

1. What does this passage of Scripture relate to us in a nutshell?
2. Why is Abraham so protective of the promise concerning Isaac and his inheritance?
3. Why is it so important for us to pass on our faith to the next generation?
4. What are some of the ways in which we can do that?
5. In what ways are you seeing to it that you serve your purpose in this generation? Are there some areas in which you feel you could improve?
6. What lesson(s) will you take away from this message/passage?