

A black and white image of a celestial scene. In the upper center, a large, cratered moon is visible. Below it, a planet with a dark, textured surface is partially visible. The background is a dark, starry space with some nebulae or dust clouds. The text "THE BOOK OF GENESIS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font. "THE BOOK OF" is in a smaller font size than "GENESIS".

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

THE DEATH OF ABRAHAM

GENESIS 25:1-18

*Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first
we practice to deceive! –Walter Scott*

- We are about to see some the consequences of Abraham's mistakes.
- Keturah was one of Abraham's concubines (as she is called in **1 Chronicles 1:32**) whom Abraham had taken long before Sarah died.
- What is a concubine? Why did God allow men to have concubines in the Bible? ***Hard times and hard hearts.***

REGRETTING YOUR MISTAKES

Sin and liberties have a way of catching up with us!

- Abraham and Keturah had six sons.
- Scripture records Abraham's marriage to Keturah in light of the prophecy of **Gen. 17:4** that he would be a "*father of many nations*" — ***ethnos*** (ethnicities).
- ***Results***—Sheba, Dedan and Midian. The ***Midianites*** seem to have been allied with the ***Ishmaelites*** (**Gen. 37:25, 27, 28, 36**), the ***Moabites*** (**Num. 25:1, 6-15**), and the ***Amalekites*** (**Judges 6:3**).

The mortal enemies of the nation of Israel to this day!

WHERE DID ABRAHAM GO WHEN HE DIED?

Sure, his body was laid to rest in the cave—Machpelah

- Notice Abraham was “*gathered to his people.*” Since none of his ancestors were buried in the cave of Machpelah, where he was buried **can not refer simply to his death and burial**. Therefore **it must refer to life after death**, with those who before him had died in faith—like Adam, Noah, Abel.
- The location of such departed spirits was actually given a name nineteen hundred years later. It was called “***Abraham’s Bosom.***” **Luke 16:19-31**

ABRAHAM'S BOSOM OR "SHEOL" — ABODE OF THE DEAD

The two compartments of *Sheol* both used to contain souls of the dead—one side for the ***righteous dead*** and the other for the ***unrighteous dead***.

- Jesus emptied half of Abraham's Bosom (**Eph. 4:7-10**), the abode of the ***righteous dead*** before His sacrifice. Now only the ***unrighteous dead*** remain in **Hades. Luke 16:23**
- They await the final judgment of the Lord at the **great white throne** where they will be cast into the lake of fire for all eternity—the second death. **Rev. 20:11-15**

WHAT ABOUT POOR ISHMAEL?

- Ishmael lived to 137 and did quite well for himself.
- His twelve sons were grown, and they had become prolific and powerful enough to have settled towns and strongholds of their own, and to be called princes, as God had promised. **Gen. 17:20**
- His eldest son, ***Nebajoth***, has been linked to the ancestors of the ***Nabateans***, a prominent tribe who later lived in the same region as the ***Edomites*** (Red), modern-day Jordan, and built the rock city of Petra.
- ***Kedar*** is synonymous with virtually all the Arab peoples, nomadic tribes and Bedouins.

WHAT ARE WE TEACHING OUR KIDS?

Abraham recognized his other children by giving them gifts and sending them away, thereby making sure they could not supplant Isaac as the rightful heir.

- Ishmael pictures the “natural” or unsaved person who is outside the faith, hostile to God. **1 Cor. 2:14**
- “Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.” **Gal. 4:28**
- Let’s make sure we leave our kids more than a bowl of beans! But rather, a rich heritage of new life in Christ.