

Good Morning Arising Church! Last week we taught on the Israel Dependent Gospel. We were asked last week *"am I supposed to go through all of that each time I sit down with someone to tell them about the gospel?"* The short answer is no, you often won't have time to walk people through all of it, but it is something you need to have as your foundation for understanding the plan of God. In the same way, today we are going to share with you an important foundation to keep in mind as you are ministering to Muslims. But first we want you to keep in mind these verses in light of what we covered last week:

You are familiar by now with Deuteronomy 32:8-9 Which informs us that God apportioned the nations of the earth to the *benai ha elohim* and created Israel out of nothing for Himself.

The Torah says this about the people of Israel.

- **Deuteronomy 14:2 (NIV 1984)**

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. **Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession.**"

Even into the Newer Testament, the apostle Paul says this:

- **Romans 9:4-5 (ESV)**

They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. **5** To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

Whether the world acknowledges it or not, they have all benefitted from what the Lord has given to Israel. Even Jesus the Christ has come through the Jews. We showed that the rest of the nations were granted access to the life saving covenant and promises through Him!

- **Ephesians 2:11-14 (NIV1984)**

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— **12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

We have all been comforted by this passage! But before you are comforted by what Christ has done, we want to highlight what the reality was before Christ:

- We were separate
- We were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel
- We were strangers
- We had no hope
- We were far off
- And there was hostility between us and God's people.

Today, our goal is to better prepare you to minister to the family of Ishmael, of Esau, of the descendants of Keturah...the Arab people...because before there was division they were all sons of Abraham.

Today's message is titled:



This is an aerial photo from southern Israel in the Timna valley looking at the hills of Edom.

We want to say right off the bat, we are not nor do we claim to be experts on ministering to Muslims. We are limited for now in our experience, but the Lord has taught us extremely valuable things in His Word that can help us understand His plan for these sons of Abraham and we want to give you a solid foundation to work with. Let's begin back at the beginning.

- **Genesis 16:1–16 (NIV)**

16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³ So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave

Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. ⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me."

⁶ "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

⁷ The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

"I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

⁹ Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰ The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

¹¹ The angel of the Lord also said to her:

"You are now pregnant
and you will give birth to a son.
You shall name him Ishmael,
for the Lord has heard of your misery.

¹² He will be a wild donkey of a man;
his hand will be against everyone
and everyone's hand against him,
and he will live in hostility
toward all his brothers."

¹³ She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.” ¹⁴ That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Think of what an incredible story this is. While we won't go all the way into the drama between Hagar and Sarah, we will simply say that Hagar's response to mistreatment from Sarah is to run away and her life is in danger in the desert.

The Lord brought her to a spring and the angel of the Lord appeared to her. There she received words from Him that comforted her. The Lord even gives her the name of the boy. Don't miss how significant this is:

Seven Pre-Named Sons

1. Ishmael	Genesis 16:11	God Hears
2. Isaac	Genesis 14:19	Laughter
3. Solomon	1 Chronicles 22:9	Peace
4. Josiah	1 Kings 13:2	God Supports
5. Cyrus	Isaiah 44:28-45:1	Heir
6. John the Immerser	Luke 1:13	God's grace; mercy gift
7. Jesus	Matthew 1:21	Yahweh is Salvation

This is the first time that God himself tells a parent what they should name their child! God gave Ishmael his name!

In addition to this, think about how profound it is that Hagar is the one recounting this story to Abraham...she, a woman, actually tells him the story of her encounter with God and what the name of the boy will be and he believes her and she is able to return to the family. Surely Hagar's behavior in returning and submitting was validation that she had a real encounter with God.

It's important that we quickly highlight the kind of life and family that Ishmael was being born into. This is what the Lord says about Abraham.

- **Genesis 18:18–19 (NIV)**

¹⁸ Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

Rashi on Genesis 18:19

For I have known him: Heb. יָדַעְתִּיו, an expression of love, like (Ruth 2:1) “a kinsman (בֹּדֵעַ) of her husband”; (ibid. 3:2) “And now, Boaz our kinsman (בֹּדֵעֵנוּ)”; (Exod. 33:17): “and I shall know you (וְיָדַעְךָ) by name.” But, in fact, the primary meaning of them all is none other than an expression of knowing, for if one loves a person, he draws him near to himself and knows him and is familiar with him. Now why do I love him? “Because he commands” ... for he commands his sons concerning Me, to keep My ways. But if you explain it as the Targum renders: “I know about him that he will command his sons, etc.,” the word לְמַעַן does not fit into the sense [of the verse].

because he commands: Heb. יִצְוֶה, a present tense (i.e., a habitual action), like (Job 1:5) “So would Job do (יַעֲשֶׂה)”; [(Num. 9:20) “in accordance to the utterance of the Lord they would camp” (יִחַנּוּ)].

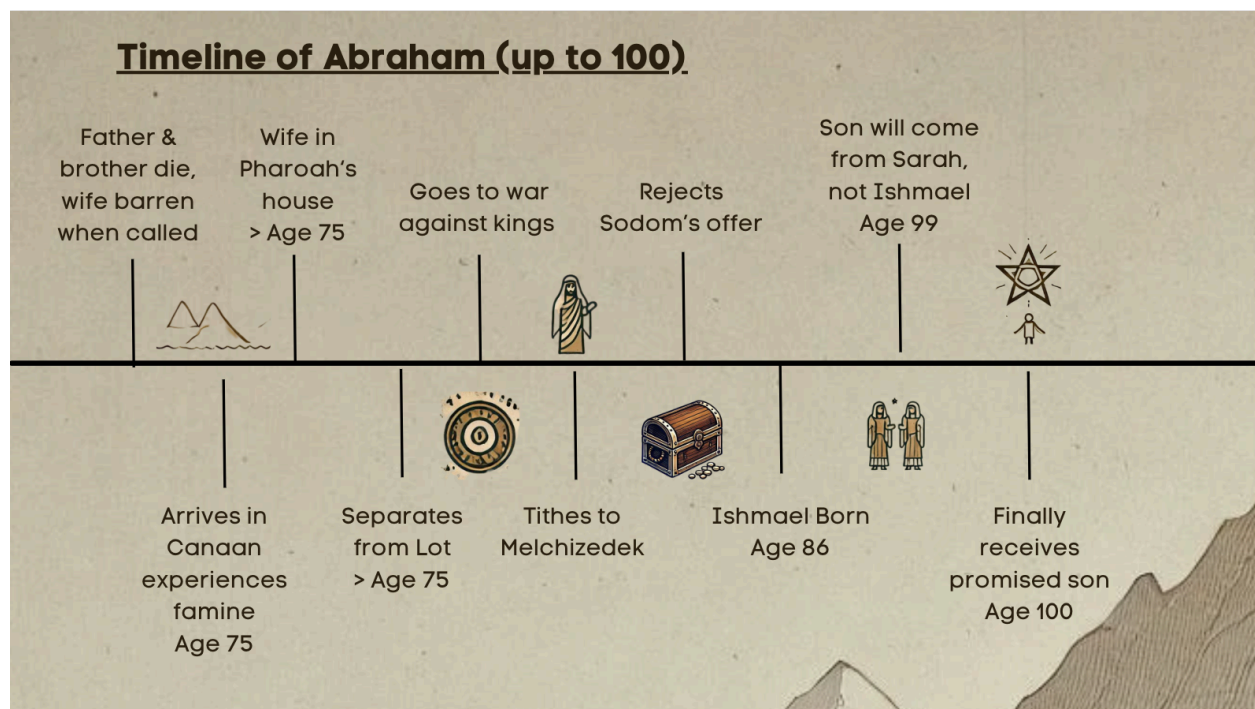
Ishmael was being born into a household where he would be taught about God and His commands.

(READ 1-5)

The Hand of God on Ishmael

1. Ishmael is the first child in the Bible named before he was born
2. The future of his descendants is foretold prophetically
3. Ishmael was born according to the will of his father
4. He grows up in the blessing of living in Abraham's house as his son
5. He is undoubtedly trained up in the ways of the Lord
6. When his father finds that he is having another son, he intercedes for Ishmael
7. God speaks 7 I will statements over Ishmael, agreeing to bless him and make him great after Abraham intercedes
8. Ishmael will not be the custodian of the covenant promises and blessings that come from the house of Abraham

Ishmael grew up with one of the greatest fathers ever :)



Let's keep going in Ishmael's origin story in the Torah to learn more about the blessings that were over his life. God comes to Abraham when Ishmael is 13 years old to tell him about another son that will be born to him through his wife Sarah.

- **Genesis 17:17–27 (NIV)**

¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!”

When God says Sarah is going to have a son, Abraham doesn't respond with something like, "Yes, finally a real son through the woman I originally married". He actually pleads for God to bless Ishmael!

- **Genesis 17:19a (NIV)**

¹⁹ Then God said, “Yes, but...”

Don't be confused if your translation says No! Contextually God is saying, it's not going to happen the way you were thinking but I hear you concerning Ishmael and I will bless him! The Septuagint also supports this.

- **Genesis 17:19b-27 (NIV)**

but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant

for his descendants after him. ²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard

you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I

will make him into a great nation. ²¹ **But my covenant I will**

establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time

next year.” ²² When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

²³ On that very day Abraham took his son Ishmael and all those born in his household or bought with his money, every male in his

household, and circumcised them, as God told him. ²⁴ Abraham

was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised, ²⁵ and his

son Ishmael was thirteen; ²⁶ Abraham and his son Ishmael were

both circumcised on that very day. ²⁷ And every male in

Abraham's household, including those born in his household or bought from a foreigner, was circumcised with him.

This is profound! God pronounces a 5 fold blessing over Ishmael right here!



Five I WILL'S....for Ishmael

1. I will indeed bless him
2. I will make him fruitful
3. I will give him a multitude of descendants
4. He will become the father of 12 princes
5. I will make him into a great nation

Abraham, his father intercedes for him and God hears the request. Immediately after, Ishmael and Abraham are circumcised on the same day. What a blessing to have grown up in Abraham's house knowing and being blessed by the God of Abraham!

(READ SLIDE)

Growing up in Abraham's House

- A house where men are trained for war (Gen.14:14)
- Where the commands of God are kept & passed down to children (Gen. 18:19)
- A household of great faith and righteousness (Gen. 15:6)
- A household of great abundance (Gen. 13:6)

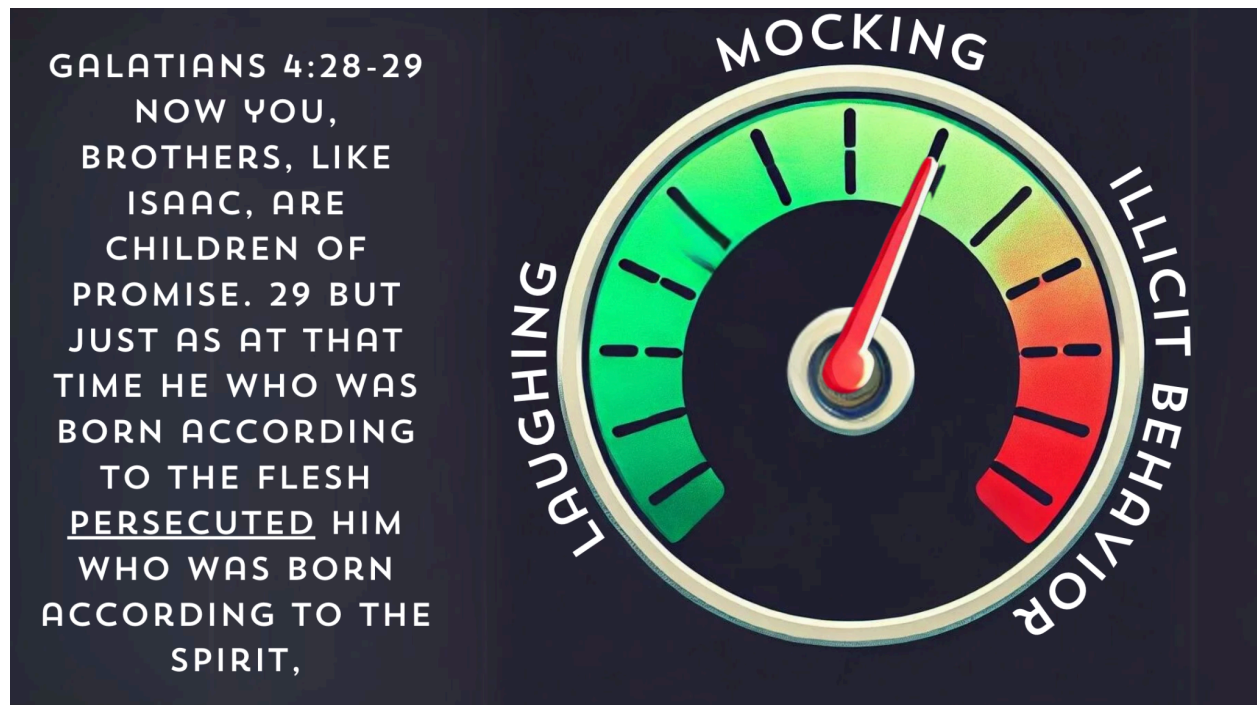
As we noted God responds to Abraham's request and pronounces a blessing on Ishmael. Then Adonai says that word again...but. The covenant will be with Isaac. God is not in the least bit shy about distinguishing between Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael is blessed, but the promise is through Isaac. This does not take anything away from Ishmael—he has already been blessed! This was just not how Abraham thought it would work, but it was always God's design. Let's move forward and see how this relationship between Abraham and his sons continues.

- **Genesis 21:8–13 (NIV)**

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.”

¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.

There is much we could discuss here that we do not have time for. You are all aware of the lengthy discussions we had concerning the word translated "mocking" here.



This word can be as light as simply laughing, or as severe as illicit sexual behavior. We are not here to debate the linguistic arguments, what matters is what the text says plainly and as you can see on this slide as Paul summarizes this event he says...

- **Galatians 4:29 (NIV)**

²⁹ At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

Ishmael clearly did something sinful in this verse akin to persecution. Sarah pleads with Abraham to send him away, and you can see that this suggestion *greatly* distresses Abraham. His initial response was not to throw him away, he was his son! This becomes a pivotal moment in the story. God intervenes and tells Abraham that Sarah is right, let's keep reading.

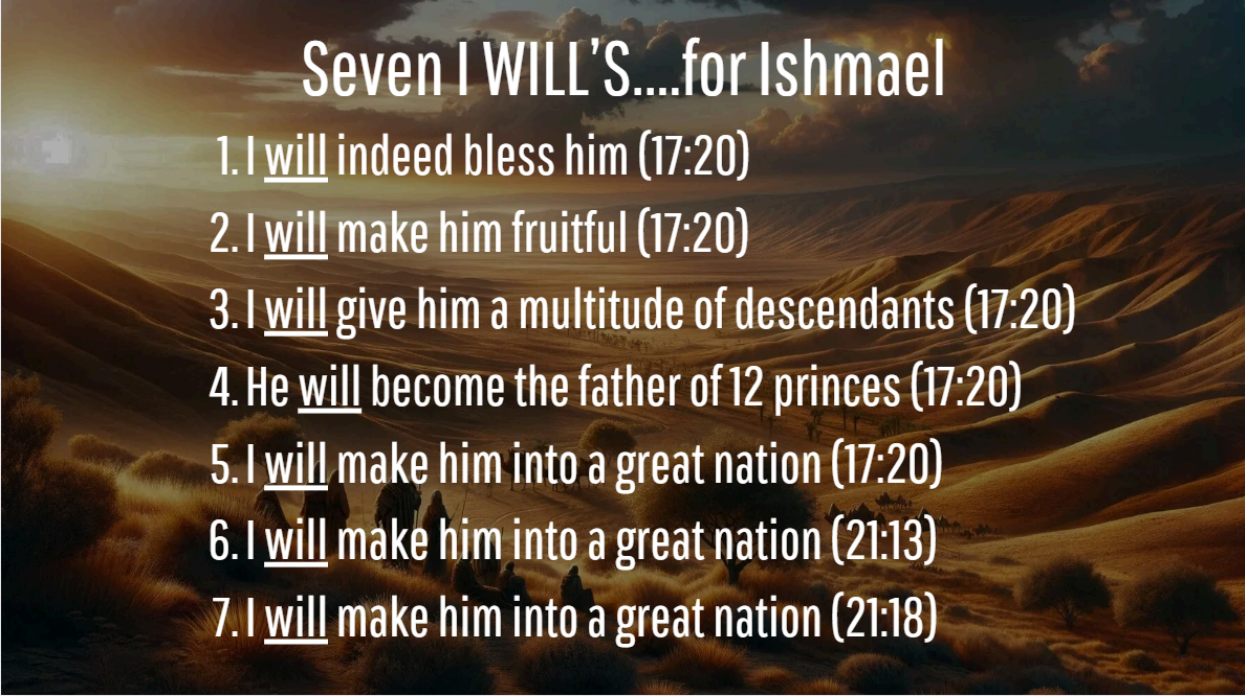
Genesis 21:12 (NIV)

12 But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.

In this moment, God is looking past the immediate circumstance. He knows they must be separated so the promise and covenant can be clearly established through Isaac. And, what is truly remarkable is that despite the persecution being done to the promised son, as Ishmael is about to be sent away, God confirms his blessing on Ishmael!

- **Genesis 21:13(NIV)**

I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”



Seven I WILL'S....for Ishmael

1. I will indeed bless him (17:20)
2. I will make him fruitful (17:20)
3. I will give him a multitude of descendants (17:20)
4. He will become the father of 12 princes (17:20)
5. I will make him into a great nation (17:20)
6. I will make him into a great nation (21:13)
7. I will make him into a great nation (21:18)

We can confidently say that Ishmael is loved by his father. His father wants him. Ishmael is blessed by God on account of Abraham and God has a plan for Ishmael.

We want to quickly skip ahead and show you a connection between someone else who would join the family of Ishmael, his nephew Esau.

- **Genesis 28:9 (NIV)**

⁹ so he [Esau] went to Ishmael and married Mahalath, the sister of Nebaioth and **daughter of Ishmael son of Abraham**, in addition to the wives he already had.

With that piece of information, let's go back and look at the part of Esau's story that shows how he was clearly blessed before joining Ishmael's family.

- **Genesis 25:21–23 (NIV)**

²¹ Isaac prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The Lord answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.

²³ The Lord said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger.”

These two boys/nations are Jacob and Esau, God healed a barren woman for her to become pregnant! Let us ask a question... Is it a curse to be a servant? Is it a curse to serve your brother? These words spoken by the Lord to Rebekah over these boys was a blessing. He is saying both boys will become nations before they are even born, both are blessed from the womb.

This next passage we are going to read is widely circulated and often misunderstood. Jacob and Esau's father Isaac is intending to bless Esau and sends him out to prepare a meal for him. Jacob comes in deceptively and is blessed by Isaac instead. When Esau enters the room where his father is and realizes Jacob has gotten the blessing instead this conversation ensues:

- **Genesis 27:37–40 (ESV)**

³⁷ Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Behold, I have made him lord over you, and all his brothers I have given to him for servants, and with grain and wine I have sustained him. What then can I do for you, my son?” ³⁸ Esau said to his father, “Have you but one

blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, O my father.” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

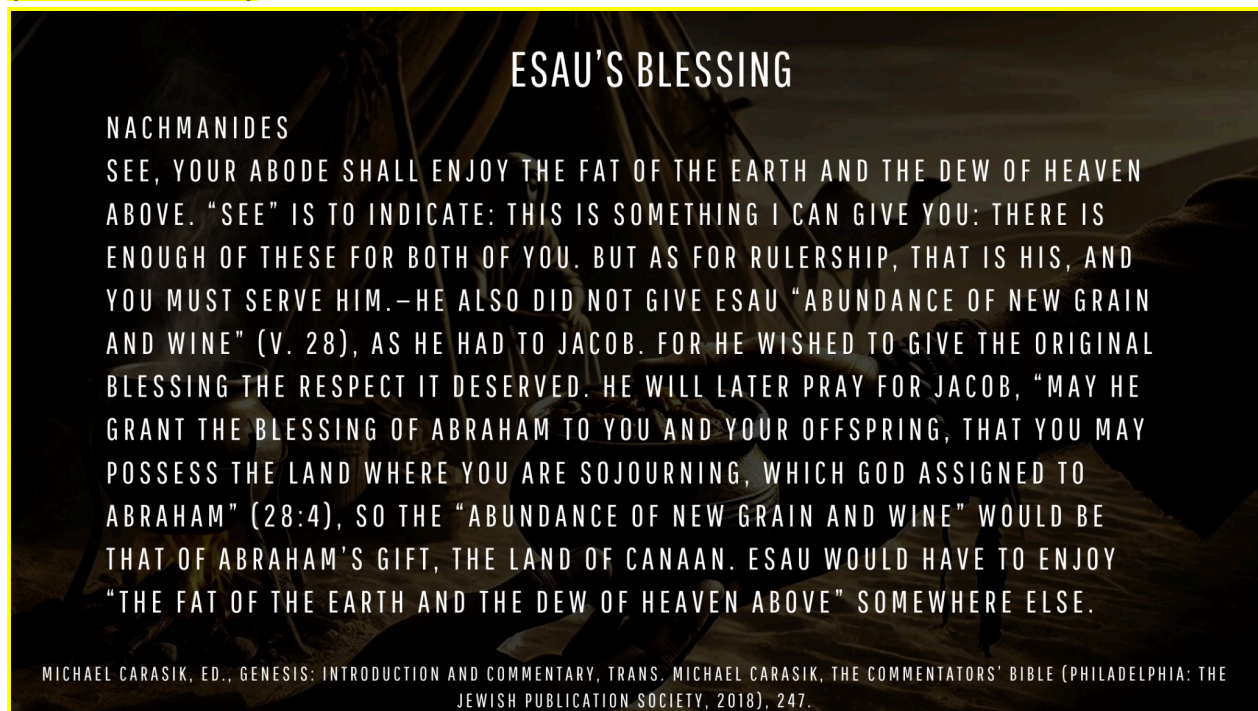
39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him:

“Behold, away from the fatness of the earth shall your dwelling be, and away from the dew of heaven on high.

40 By your sword you shall live,
and you shall serve your brother;
but when you grow restless
you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

On the surface, Isaac's words might not seem like a blessing, but let's dig a little deeper to gain understanding. The Jewish commentator Nachmanides says this:

(READ SLIDE)



ESAU'S BLESSING

NACHMANIDES
SEE, YOUR ABODE SHALL ENJOY THE FAT OF THE EARTH AND THE DEW OF HEAVEN ABOVE. "SEE" IS TO INDICATE: THIS IS SOMETHING I CAN GIVE YOU: THERE IS ENOUGH OF THESE FOR BOTH OF YOU. BUT AS FOR RULERSHIP, THAT IS HIS, AND YOU MUST SERVE HIM.—HE ALSO DID NOT GIVE ESAU "ABUNDANCE OF NEW GRAIN AND WINE" (V. 28), AS HE HAD TO JACOB. FOR HE WISHED TO GIVE THE ORIGINAL BLESSING THE RESPECT IT DESERVED. HE WILL LATER PRAY FOR JACOB, "MAY HE GRANT THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM TO YOU AND YOUR OFFSPRING, THAT YOU MAY POSSESS THE LAND WHERE YOU ARE SOJOURNING, WHICH GOD ASSIGNED TO ABRAHAM" (28:4), SO THE "ABUNDANCE OF NEW GRAIN AND WINE" WOULD BE THAT OF ABRAHAM'S GIFT, THE LAND OF CANAAN. ESAU WOULD HAVE TO ENJOY "THE FAT OF THE EARTH AND THE DEW OF HEAVEN ABOVE" SOMEWHERE ELSE.

MICHAEL CARASIK, ED., GENESIS: INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARY, TRANS. MICHAEL CARASIK, THE COMMENTATORS' BIBLE (PHILADELPHIA: THE JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY, 2018), 247.

The fat of the earth and dew of heaven would have to be enjoyed somewhere else. The takeaway cannot be that Esau would be cursed from then on, in fact scripture paints a very different picture.

(DO NOT READ)

ESAU'S BLESSING

DEUTERONOMY 2:4-5 (ESV): "AND COMMAND THE PEOPLE, 'YOU ARE ABOUT TO PASS THROUGH THE TERRITORY OF YOUR BROTHERS, THE PEOPLE OF ESAU, WHO LIVE IN SEIR; AND THEY WILL BE AFRAID OF YOU. SO BE VERY CAREFUL. DO NOT CONTEND WITH THEM, FOR I WILL NOT GIVE YOU ANY OF THEIR LAND, NO, NOT SO MUCH AS FOR THE SOLE OF THE FOOT TO TREAD ON, BECAUSE I HAVE GIVEN MOUNT SEIR TO ESAU AS A POSSESSION.'"

DEUTERONOMY 2:22 (ESV): "AS HE DID FOR THE PEOPLE OF ESAU, WHO LIVE IN SEIR, WHEN HE DESTROYED THE HORITES BEFORE THEM SO THAT THEY DISPOSSESSED THEM AND SETTLED IN THEIR PLACE EVEN TO THIS DAY."

JOSHUA 24:4 (ESV): "AND TO ISAAC I GAVE JACOB AND ESAU. AND I GAVE ESAU THE HILL COUNTRY OF SEIR TO POSSESS, BUT JACOB AND HIS CHILDREN WENT DOWN TO EGYPT."

- Deuteronomy 2:4-5 makes it clear that God kept Israel from walking through the territory that God had given to Esau as a possession: Mt. Seir.
- Deuteronomy 2:22 reveals that God even destroyed giants (the Horites) before the people of Esau to help them possess their land
- Joshua 24:4 confirms that God gave Esau the hill country of Seir. So he gave him a different land and helped him defeat giants to possess it!!!



ESAU'S BLESSING

HEBREWS 11:20

BY FAITH ISAAC BLESSED JACOB AND ESAU IN REGARD TO THEIR FUTURE.

GENESIS 33:8-9

8 ESAU ASKED, "WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THESE FLOCKS AND HERDS I MET?"
"TO FIND FAVOR IN YOUR EYES, MY LORD," HE SAID.

9 BUT ESAU SAID, "I ALREADY HAVE PLENTY, MY BROTHER. KEEP WHAT YOU HAVE
FOR YOURSELF."

- Hebrews 11:20 makes it clear that what Isaac spoke was absolutely a blessing!

It is clear that the father loved Esau...he intended to bless him! It is also clear that God blessed Esau and had a plan for him and helped him.

- Genesis 33:8-9 also makes it clear that Esau prospered in the land where God brought him, we will come back to this story!
- **Genesis 25:1–6 (NIV)**

25 Abraham had taken 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 Ashurites, the Letushites and the

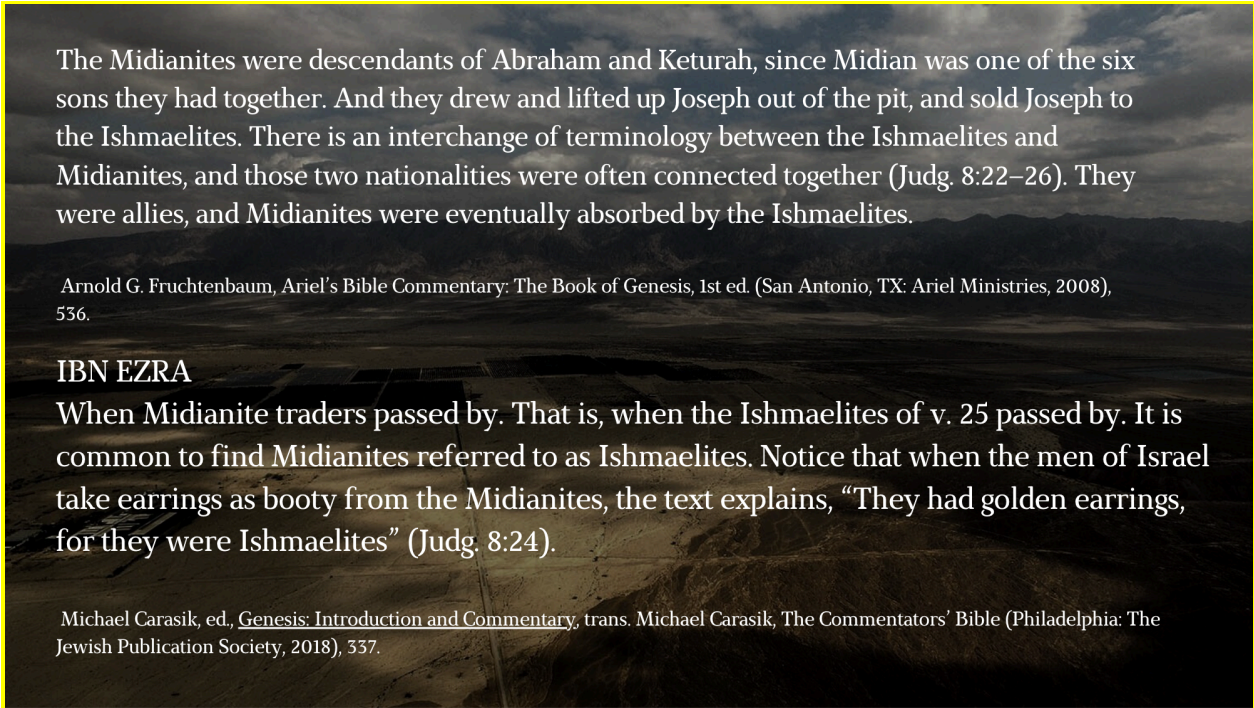
Leummites.⁴ The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanok, Abida and Eldaah. All these were descendants of Keturah.

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.

Here we have more descendants of Abraham besides Isaac and Ishmael. Remember how Abraham was told by God that he would be a father to many nations? It's truly remarkable to see the sons of Abraham Listed as the origin of people's such as the Midians!

What we are going to show you next is a few scholarly resources that makes some historical connections between Abraham sons And groups of ethnic peoples you are familiar with today.

(READ SLIDE)



The Midianites were descendants of Abraham and Keturah, since Midian was one of the six sons they had together. And they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites. There is an interchange of terminology between the Ishmaelites and Midianites, and those two nationalities were often connected together (Judg. 8:22–26). They were allies, and Midianites were eventually absorbed by the Ishmaelites.

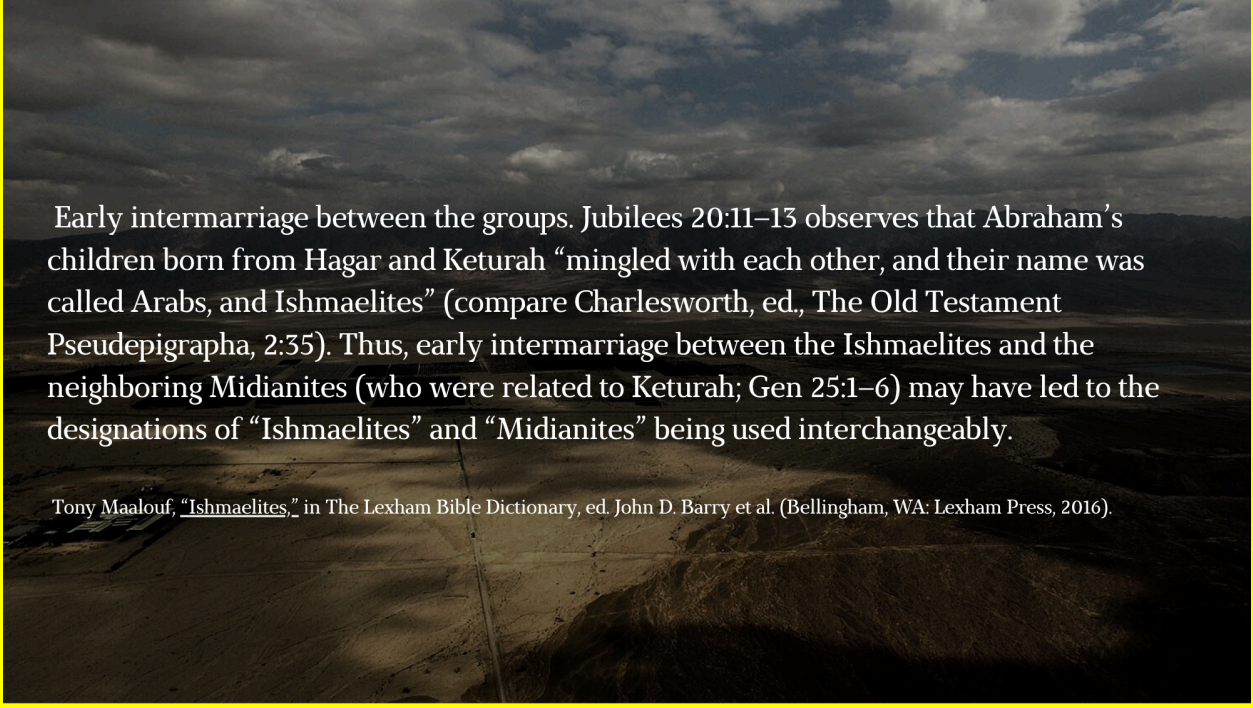
Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *Ariel's Bible Commentary: The Book of Genesis*, 1st ed. (San Antonio, TX: Ariel Ministries, 2008), 536.

IBN EZRA

When Midianite traders passed by. That is, when the Ishmaelites of v. 25 passed by. It is common to find Midianites referred to as Ishmaelites. Notice that when the men of Israel take earrings as booty from the Midianites, the text explains, “They had golden earrings, for they were Ishmaelites” (Judg. 8:24).

Michael Carasik, ed., *Genesis: Introduction and Commentary*, trans. Michael Carasik, *The Commentators' Bible* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2018), 337.

(READ SLIDE)

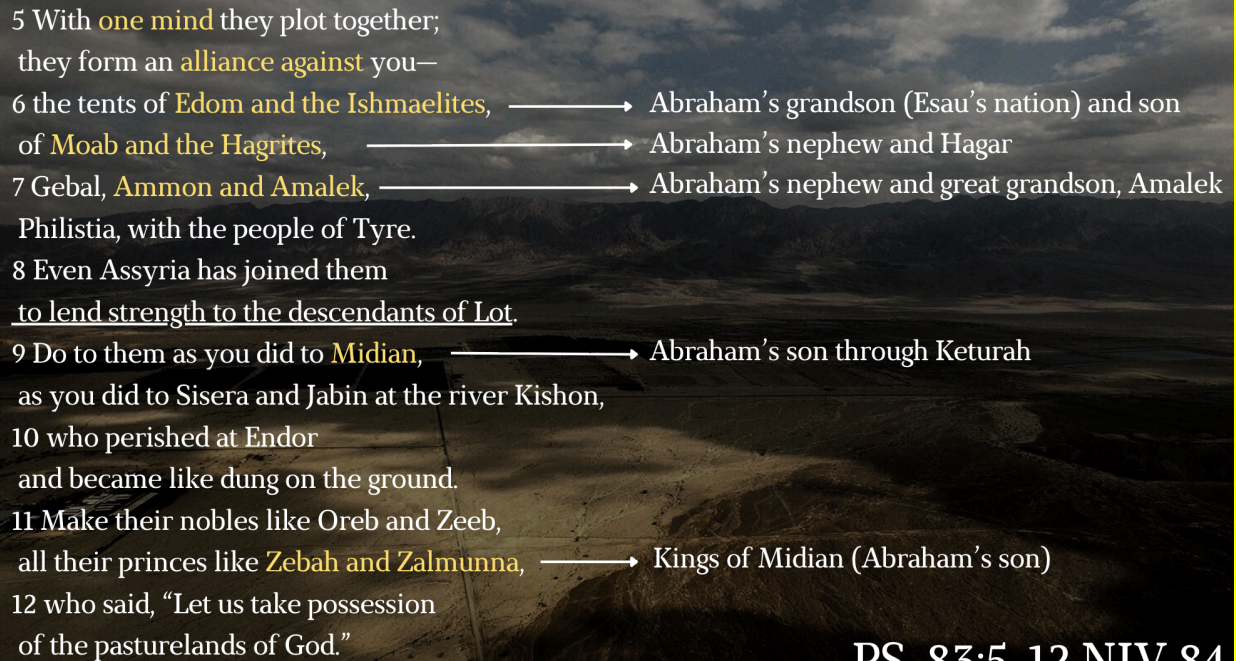


Early intermarriage between the groups. Jubilees 20:11–13 observes that Abraham’s children born from Hagar and Keturah “mingled with each other, and their name was called Arabs, and Ishmaelites” (compare Charlesworth, ed., *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, 2:35). Thus, early intermarriage between the Ishmaelites and the neighboring Midianites (who were related to Keturah; Gen 25:1–6) may have led to the designations of “Ishmaelites” and “Midianites” being used interchangeably.

Tony Maalouf, “[Ishmaelites](#),” in *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*, ed. John D. Barry et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

So we can see that all of these sons of Abraham who end up away from the covenant land and people all intermarry and overlap forming a mix of nations that becomes very numerous and prosperous. So how do we go from offspring who are blessed by God, loved by the father, and prosperous to this?

(READ SLIDE)



5 With **one mind** they plot together;
they form an **alliance against** you—
6 the tents of **Edom and the Ishmaelites**, —————→ Abraham's grandson (Esau's nation) and son
of **Moab and the Hagrites**, —————→ Abraham's nephew and Hagar
7 Gebal, **Ammon and Amalek**, —————→ Abraham's nephew and great grandson, Amalek
Philistia, with the people of Tyre.
8 Even Assyria has joined them
to lend strength to the descendants of Lot.
9 Do to them as you did to **Midian**, —————→ Abraham's son through Keturah
as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,
10 who perished at Endor
and became like dung on the ground.
11 Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,
all their princes like **Zebah and Zalmunna**, —————→ Kings of Midian (Abraham's son)
12 who said, "Let us take possession
of the pasturelands of God."

PS. 83:5-12 NIV 84

The verses preceding these make it clear that these nations are enemies of God and want to destroy Israel as a nation so that their name is remembered no more. Clearly somewhere along the way these descendants of Abraham became hostile. Consider this:

(READ SLIDE)

Persecution & Ancient Hostility

Galatians 4:28–29 (NIV)

28 Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 At that time the son born according to the flesh **persecuted** the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

Ezekiel 35:1–3,5 (NIV)

35 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, set your face against **Mount Seir**; prophesy against it 3 and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, **Mount Seir**...5 “ ‘Because you harbored an **ancient hostility** and delivered the Israelites over to the sword...

Mount Seir = Edom/Esau

On the day that Isaac was being celebrated, Ishmael persecutes his brother Isaac. When Isaac blesses Jacob and not Esau, Esau comforts himself with the thought of killing his brother, which ultimately results in what Ezekiel calls an "ancient hostility".

Let's quickly go back and take a look at the details given in scripture when Ishmael persecutes his brother Isaac and is sent away.

- **Genesis 21:14–16 (NIV)**

¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she began to sob.

We have talked about this exact moment many times in this body. It is not our desire to show how Ishmael is a victim here but rather how these intense moments that would be difficult to understand at any age, especially at 16, and how they could be used and twisted by Satan to form a deep seated animosity that grows as the story is told and retold down through the generations. It is not difficult to imagine the fleshly conclusions someone in Hagar's position or Ishmael's position might come to over time about the family they were just removed from. Regardless of their specific thoughts on the matter, it is clear that there was not an air tight heavenly perspective that was passed down to the people of Ishmael's nation.

With that in mind, imagine you are **Ishmael**, growing up as the son of Abraham — raised in his household and trained in every area of life. You have been carefully taught the plans and promises, the commands and instructions that defined your father's calling. Abraham is no ordinary man. The Hittites call him a *prince of God*. He commands a household of **318 trained warriors**, men who once followed him on a rescue mission to defeat kings — and **you are his son**. Your father loves you. You grow up believing you belong.

Then, when you are **thirteen years old**, everything changes. Your father learns that he will have a son through his original wife — a son who will receive the promises. Life in the household shifts, but you remain. Years later, on the day your baby brother is weaned, you commit a terrible sin against him. His mother cries out for you to be cast out, declaring that you will have **no part in the inheritance**. Your father steps away to pray. When he returns, he does not argue. He places a small amount of food and water into your hands and sends you away — permanently — from the family you have known your entire life, out into the desert. At this moment in the story, **Ishmael is approximately sixteen years old**.

In the desert, after running out of water Ishmael is placed under the bush at 16 years old by his mother to die. She walks away and begins to sob. This is pain. Ishmael was Abraham's son and now he isn't. Abraham was

Ishmael's father and now he isn't. The promise would go to someone else...someone chosen.

These are the painful experiences of Ishmael at the difficult age of 16. Satan is going to take these circumstances and stories as they are retold down through the generations to cultivate enmity between the descendants of Ishmael and the children of promise.

Let's take a look at Esau.

After it was realized that Jacob had deceived Isaac and stolen Esau's blessing the Bible records these events:

- **Genesis 27:33–34 (NIV)**

³³ Isaac trembled violently and said, “Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!”

³⁴ When Esau heard his father’s words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, “Bless me—me too, my father!”

Imagine you are in the room, Isaac trembling violently when he realizes that he has been deceived. Esau isn't just angry, he burst out with a loud and BITTER cry...BLESS ME TOO!!!

Bitter Cry

5253 I. מַר (mār): adj. [see also 5253.5]; ≡ Str 4751; TWOT 1248a–1. LN 79.39–79.44 bitter, i.e., pertaining to having an astringent, pungent, disagreeable taste in the mouth (Ex 15:23; Nu 5:24a; Pr 5:4; 27:7; Isa 5:20), note: for MT text in 2Ki 14:26 hif, see 5286; 2. LN 25.223–25.250 anguished, despairing, bitter, i.e., pertaining to a mental state of great, intense distress, as a figurative extension of a bitter taste in the mouth (Ge 27:34; Nu 5:24b), note: Lisowsky switches 1 & 2; 3. LN 23.88–23.128 **poisonous, i.e., pertaining to a deadly substance when applied through a weapon causes death** (Ps 64:4[EB 3]); 4. LN 25.223–25.250 unit: מַר נֶפֶשׁ (mār nē-ṭēš) discontented, formally, bitter of soul, i.e., in a state of unhappiness and mental distress (1Sa 1:10; 22:2; Job 3:20); 5. LN 88.105–88.125 unit: מַר נֶפֶשׁ (mār nē-ṭēš) **fierce, violent, formally, bitter of soul, i.e., pertaining to a person that can harm another** (Jdg 18:25; 2Sa 17:8; Hab 1:6); 6. LN 29.13–29.15 unit: מַר הָיָה נִשְׁכַּח (mār hā- mā-wēṭ sūr) **forget**, formally, bitterness of the death is removed, i.e., have sufficient time go by as to have one forget or have less emotion about a past event (1Sa 15:32)

James Swanson, Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

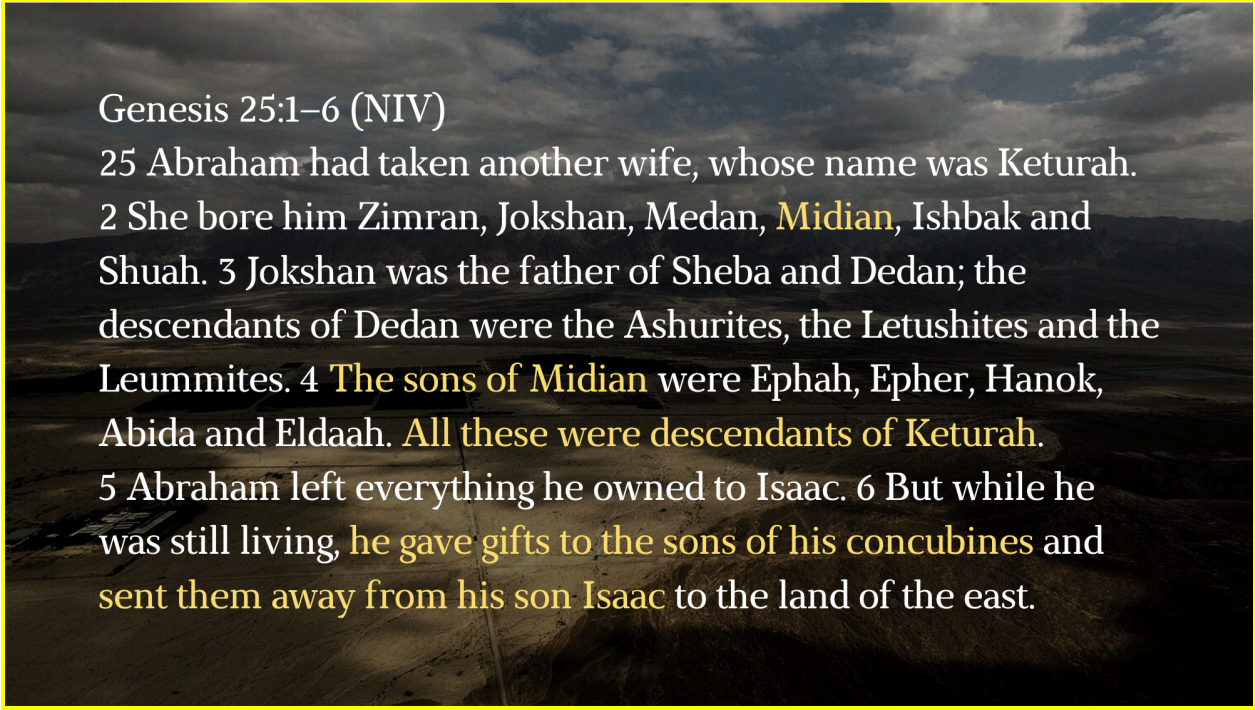
Remember at this time, he is 77 years old.

- **Genesis 27:41–42 (ESV)**

41 Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” **42** But the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, your brother Esau comforts himself about you by planning to kill you.

Esau's bitterness and hatred are now explicitly identified in the scripture. He even comforts himself with the thought of killing his brother. This moment became a defining moment in Esau's life and if we were looking for the origin of an ancient hostility within the line of Esau, the waters seemed to be poisoned right here.

(DO NOT READ)



Genesis 25:1–6 (NIV)

25 Abraham had taken 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 Ashurites, the Letushites and the Leummites. 4 The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanok, 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.

The source of hatred or pain within the sons of Keturah is more difficult to identify because scripture does not clearly connect it. However, what we know is that they were given gifts and sent away to the east so that Isaac could inherit everything Abraham owned. Sons sent away from the father to make room for the son of promise, and then intermarrying with the descendants of Ishmael.

Down through the centuries, as these families intermingle and appear in scripture again and again with cultivated animosity toward the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob we end up with a map looking something like this:



Ishmael- The Arab World

Dwelling in proximity
to his brothers

This connection of Ishmael to the Arab world is important to show the relationship down through the ages. Consider what these reliable sources have to say:

(READ SLIDE)

Ishmael and the Arabs

In casting doubt on the prophet's pedigree, we must add that this cannot affect the proofs of the chief element of the Arab nation being Ishmaelitish (and so, too, the tribe of Kureysh, of whom was Mohammed). Although partly mixed with Joktanites, they are more mixed with Keturahites, etc.; the characteristics of the Joktanites, as before remarked, are widely different from those of the Ishmaelites; and, whatever theories may be adduced to the contrary, **we believe that the Arabs, from physical characteristics, language, the concurrence of native traditions (before Mohammedanism made them untrustworthy), and the testimony of the Bible, are mainly and essentially Ishmaelitish.**

John M'Clintock and James Strong, "Ish'maël," in *Cyclopædia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature* (New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1891), 685.

(READ SLIDE)

Ishmael and the Arabs

Another passage worth considering is the sale of Joseph into slavery in Gen 37:25–28. In this passage, the Ishmaelites are depicted as traders transporting east Arabian wares (gum, balm, and myrrh) and slaves via camels to Egypt. Taking together the descriptions of the Ishmaelites in Judg 6–8 and Gen 37:25–28, one can gather that they were well known to ancient Israel for their raids with large hordes of camels. Similarly, their camel-driven caravans connected the Arabian Peninsula with the main trading routes in the southern Levant, and thereby Mesopotamia, the northern Levant, and Egypt. **In short, this biblical description well matches the realities of the extrabiblical information concerning the various Arab tribes described above.**

Chris McKinny, "Ishmael and His Descendants: A Historical Geographical Assessment (Gen 16:1–17:27; 21:8–21; 25:12–17)," in *Lexham Geographic Commentary on the Pentateuch*, ed. Barry J. Beitzel, Lexham Geographic Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2022), Ge 16:1–25:17.

With the connection between Ishmael and the Arab's more firmly secured, consider these verses and the implications down through the centuries.

(READ SLIDE)

Arab Hostilities

2 Chronicles 26:6–8 (NIV)

⁶He **went to war** against the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh and Ashdod. He then rebuilt towns near Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines. ⁷God helped him against the Philistines and **against the Arabs** who lived in Gur Baal and against the Meunites. ⁸The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, because he had become very powerful.

2 Chronicles 21:16–17 (NIV)

...the **Arabs** who lived near the Cushites. ¹⁷**They attacked Judah**, invaded it and **carried off** all the goods found in the king's palace, together with his **sons and wives**.

Nehemiah 4:7 (NIV)

⁷But when Sanballat, Tobiah, the **Arabs**, the Ammonites and the people of Ashdod heard that the repairs to Jerusalem's walls had gone ahead and that the gaps were being closed, **they were very angry**.

2 Chronicles 22:1 (ESV)

Ahaziah Reigns in Judah

22 And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his place, for the **band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had killed all the older sons**. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.

Ishmaelites/Arabs

“These inhabited all the country from the Euphrates to the Red Sea, and are called Nabateans. They are an **Arabian nation, and name their tribes from Ishmael, the son of Abraham.**”

Josephus Antiquities 1.12.4

But as for the **Arabians**, they circumcise after the thirteenth year, because **Ismael, the founder of their nation**, who was born to Abraham of the concubine, was circumcised at that age;

Josephus Antiquities 1.12.2

he [abraham] begat by the Egyptian **twelve sons, who went off into Arabia** and divided the land among them, and were the first who reigned over the people of the country: from which circumstance there are even in our own day twelve kings of the Arabians, bearing the same names as the first.

Eusebius of Caesarea: Praeparatio Evangelica XIX

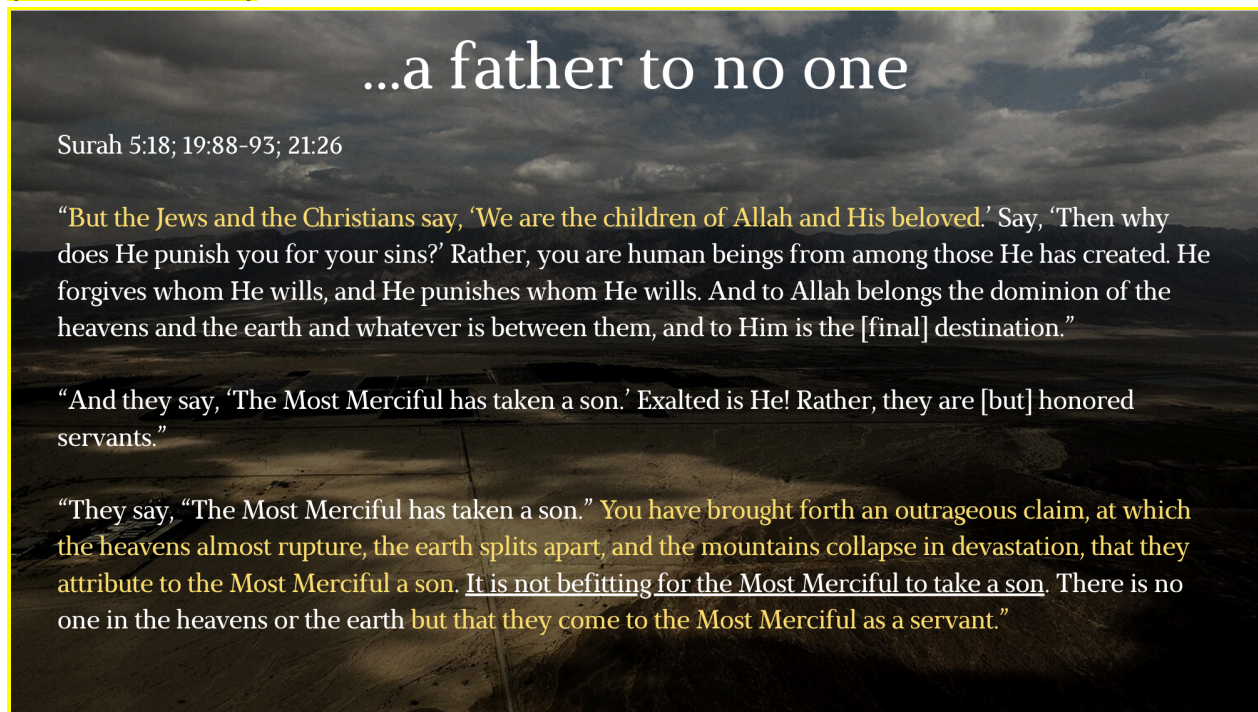
As we have already seen, there existed among the descendants of Ishmael, the Edomites, and the Arabs a hostility with ancient roots. A

murderous hatred was cultivated down through the generations resulting in a growing desire to dispossess the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and to wipe out their name.

Many centuries later, a set of beliefs would form that centered around the God of Abraham, with specific practices such as denying the father son relationship, relating to God as a slave and master, borrowing heavily from commands specifically outlined in the Torah, deceiving when necessary to gain a favorable position, with a shared desire to remove Israel from the world.

This coalition still exists today. Let's read you some excerpts from their primary source material and you can see for yourself if any of its language mixes with the story of Ishmael and Esau.

(READ SLIDE)



...a father to no one

Surah 5:18; 19:88-93; 21:26

"But the Jews and the Christians say, 'We are the children of Allah and His beloved.' Say, 'Then why does He punish you for your sins?' Rather, you are human beings from among those He has created. He forgives whom He wills, and He punishes whom He wills. And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and whatever is between them, and to Him is the [final] destination."

"And they say, 'The Most Merciful has taken a son.' Exalted is He! Rather, they are [but] honored servants."

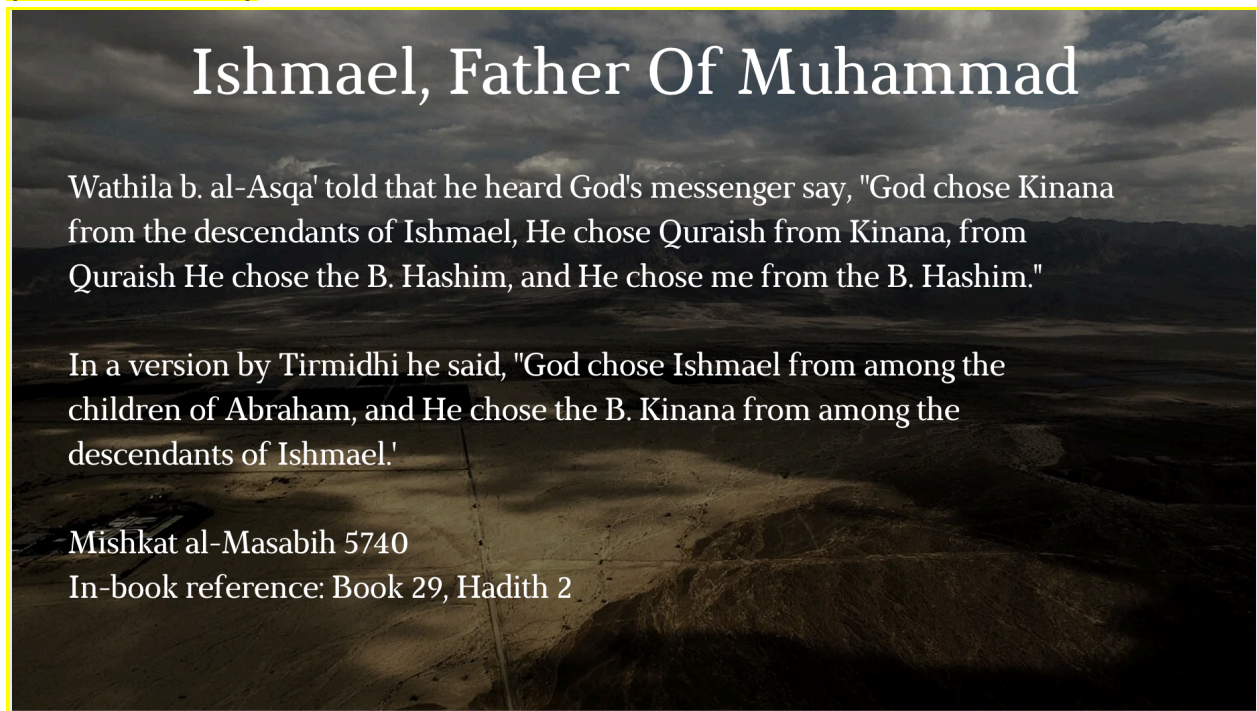
"They say, 'The Most Merciful has taken a son.' You have brought forth an outrageous claim, at which the heavens almost rupture, the earth splits apart, and the mountains collapse in devastation, that they attribute to the Most Merciful a son. It is not befitting for the Most Merciful to take a son. There is no one in the heavens or the earth but that they come to the Most Merciful as a servant."

As you can see, Muslim theology from it's own holy text repeatedly distances itself from any connection between Allah being a father, and

anyone being his son. The highest relationship that you can have with Allah is a slave to master relationship.

Its not hard to imagine the perceived injustice done to Ishmael from Abraham would turn into something much worse than Ishmael ever acted upon or would approve. Nonetheless, Mohammed himself connects his own lineage back to Ishmael, and takes on this ancient hostility.

(READ SLIDE)



Ishmael, Father Of Muhammad

Wathila b. al-Asqa' told that he heard God's messenger say, "God chose Kinana from the descendants of Ishmael, He chose Quraish from Kinana, from Quraish He chose the B. Hashim, and He chose me from the B. Hashim."

In a version by Tirmidhi he said, "God chose Ishmael from among the children of Abraham, and He chose the B. Kinana from among the descendants of Ishmael.'

Mishkat al-Masabih 5740
In-book reference: Book 29, Hadith 2

What we are about to show you is so atrocious, its almost unbelievable. The longer you think about this next point, it should lead you into more and more Godly indignation. From Islam's own text, Allah is described as a *master deceiver*.

(READ TEXT)

...a master deceiver

Surah 8:30

"And [remember, O Muhammad], when those who disbelieved plotted against you to restrain you or kill you or evict you [from Makkah]. But they plan, and Allah plans. And Allah is the best of planners ('makr', deceivers)."

Do not let the translation fool you. The satanic act of deception is the very tactic Islam is using to change the meaning of this Surah on deception! You will often see this word *makir* translated as *planner*. Let's survey an Arabic lexicon to see if that translation stands.

(READ SLIDE)

TOTAL B.S. (bad semantics)

Makr

1 مَكَرَ , aor. مَكَرَ , (Msb, TA,) inf. n. مَكْرٌ; (S, A, Msb, K;) and ↓ امكر; (Msb;) **He practised deceit, guile, or circumvention;** or he practised deceit, guile, or circumvention, **desiring to do to another a foul, an abominable, or an evil, action,** clandestinely, or without his knowing whence it proceeded; syn. خَدَعَ; (Msb;) and of the inf. n. خَدِيعَةٌ: (S, A, K:) he practised an evasion or elusion, a shift, an artifice, or artful contrivance or device, a machination, a trick, a plot, a stratagem, or an expedient; he plotted; or he exercised art, craft, cunning, or skill, in the management or ordering of affairs, with excellent consideration or deliberation, and ability to manage according to his own free will; syn. of the inf. n. اِخْتِيَالٌ:

Edward William Lane, An Arabic-English Lexicon (Medford, MA: Williams and Norgate, 1863), 2728.

Allah as a *planner* is total BS - Bad semantics. The actual translation exposes a dark truth —Allah is described as the BEST DECEIVER. Deception is actually a primary characteristic of Allah, the God of Islam. Additionally, they also call someone else a deceiver.

(READ SLIDE)

...a master deceiver

Allah is explicitly described
as: performing مكر (makr)
→ the best of those who
deceive (Q 8:30)

Surah 8:30

Allah is the best of planners ('makr',
deceivers)."

Satan is explicitly called الْغُرُورُ
(al-Ghurūr)
→ the deceiver (Q 35:5)

Surah 35:5

[5] O men! surely the promise of Allah is
true, therefore let not the life of this world
deceive you, and let not the archdeceiver
deceive you respecting Allah.

M. H. Shakir, ed., The Quran (Medford, MA: Perseus Digital Library, n.d.).

According to their holy texts, Allah is the best deceiver (khayr al-mākirīn) and Satan is the archdeceiver (al-Ghurūr).

This is quite the contradiction. The only way to solve this Quranic difficulty is with the word of God. Let's do some math.



So, who is the deceiver..?

Surah 8:30

Allah is the best of planners ('makr', deceivers)."

Surah 35:5

+ the archdeceiver deceive you

Revelation 12:9 (ESV)

Satan, the deceiver of the whole world...

It turns out that 8:30 plus 35:5 = 12:9. The only true explanation is this: Allah and Satan are both called the deceiver because they are the same person. The only source of truth that has ever existed - the Word of God makes the correct blunt statement—the great deceiver is Satan himself.

Its not hard to imagine this belief stemming from the rage Esau experienced in Genesis 27:34-38 when Jacob deceived his father Isaac into giving him the blessing of the firstborn, taking away the blessing from Esau. Because of this ancient hostility, deception is now the method that Allah and his followers work through to accomplish their will. Let's work through a few more facets of Islam.

(READ SLIDE)

Taqiyya

the Qur'an allows the believer to **outwardly renounce his faith** in a bid to ward off this threat of persecution.

Askari, M. (2021, May 6). Shia islam: The meaning of taqiyya / 14. Shia Studies' World Assembly. [Surah 2:106](#)

Surah 16:106

Whoso disbelieveth in Allah after his belief - save him who is forced thereto and whose heart is still content with the Faith

Surah 3:28

[28] Let not the believers take disbelievers for their friends in preference to believers. Whoso doeth that hath no connection with Allah unless (it be) that ye but guard yourselves against them, taking (as it were) security. Allah biddeth you beware (only) of Himself. Unto Allah is the journeying.

Several horrible truths emerge when you really begin to dive into Islamic texts. First, it is excusable to renounce your faith if it personally benefits you—furthering the Islamic strategy of deception. Furthermore, Surah 3:28 is describing the practice of befriending a non-Muslim in an effort to guard yourself without any actual desire to have an actual relationship.

This is a far cry from the heart of Torah. Do you remember the Rabbis explanation of Exodus 23:4-5?

REVERSAL OF ANIMOSITY

Rabbi Alexandri explained it like this:

Two mules were being led along a road by two men who despised each other. Suddenly, one of the mules collapsed under its load. As the second man passed by, he saw the other man's mule lying on the ground and thought to himself, "Isn't it written in the law: 'If you see the donkey of someone who hates you lying under its burden, you must not walk away. You must help him lift it' (Exodus 23:5)?" So what did he do? He turned back to help the other man reload the mule and walked with him along the road. While they worked together, he began to speak to the owner of the fallen mule, saying, "Let's loosen it a bit here, let's tighten it there," and together they reloaded the animal. As a result, peace was made between them. The man whose mule had fallen said to himself, "I can't believe he hates me—look how concerned he was when he saw me and my mule in distress." Eventually, they entered an inn, shared a meal and drinks, and grew deeply attached to one another.

Midrash Tanchuma, Mishpatim 1

Rabbi Alexandri explains that the reason you help an enemy with his ox is that perhaps it would bind you together with him and remove the animosity and grow to a mutual attachment.

The Law seeks to preserve all life when possible, The Quran excuses personal gain through unscrupulous means—even lying and apostasy. Let's move to the next topic:

Abrogation

If We ever abrogate a verse or cause it to be forgotten, We replace it with a better or similar one. Do you not know that Allah is Most Capable of everything?

Surah 2:106

Replacing a ruling with another is called **abrogation** (naskh). For example, alcohol consumption was forbidden over three stages (see 2:219, 4:43, and 5:90, respectively). Some of the Prophet's companions said, "If drinking had been forbidden from day one, no one would have accepted Islam!"

Surah An-Nahl 16:67- alcohol acknowledged not forbidden
Surah Al-Baqarah 2:219 Harm outweighs benefit
Surah An-Nisa 4:43 Functional restriction
Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:90-91 Total prohibition
Finally described as of Satan! But not from the beginning?

Footnote from Quran.com

To make matters worse than lying and deception, Islam is also built upon this principle of Abrogation—where it is allowed and even respectable to change a position or belief over time. Remember, these are not Jews writing what is on these slides, these are taken directly from the holy texts of Islam. Islam makes room in their belief to change what truth is for something better. They have done this with alcohol as mentioned above and many other beliefs. We could give you many of those on a small scale, but the broader more damning example is true of the entire religion. Islam began under the guise of peace, but over time as numbers and power grew, they became more and more violent. Come and talk to us about The Treaty of al-Hudaybiya.

But for now, let's take another reprieve from the demonic with a passage from Torah.

- **Numbers 23:19 (ESV)**

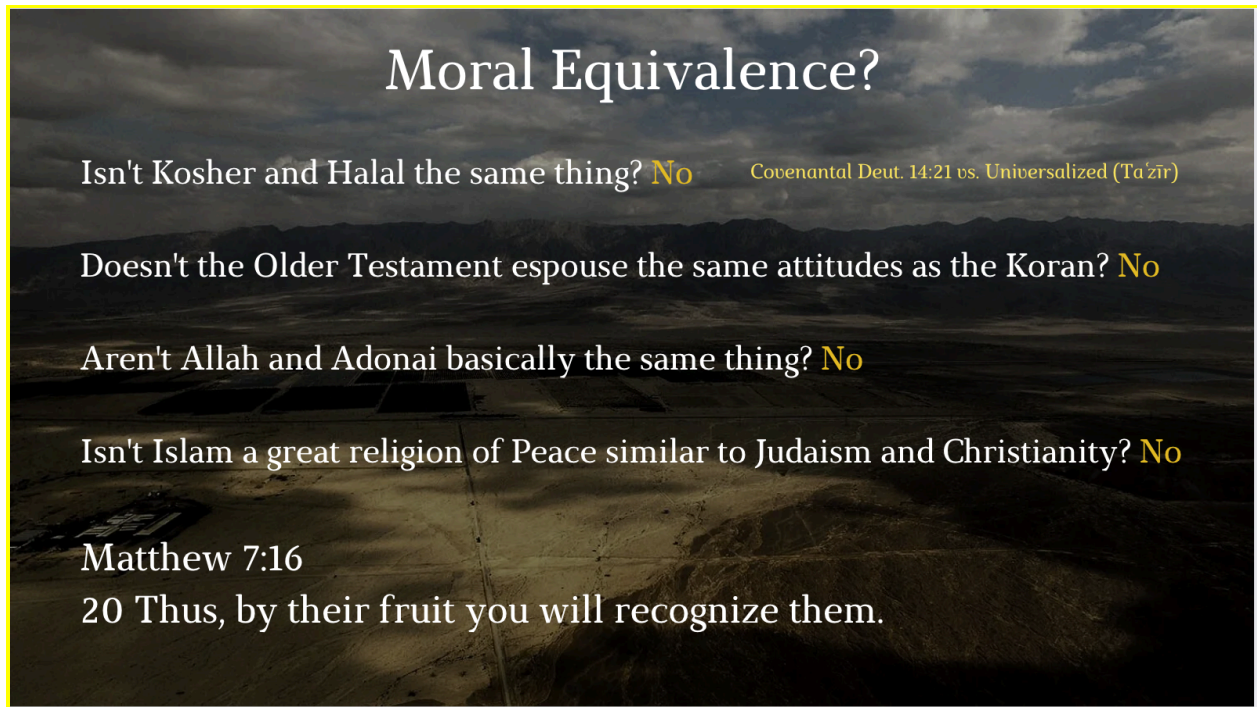
19

God is not man, that he should lie,
or a son of man, that he should change his mind.
Has he said, and will he not do it?

Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

As you endeavor to preach the Israel-Dependent Gospel —do not think it will be without great opposition. There will be many who are prepared with thought through and intelligent sounding arguments against you. One of biggest traps that tries to trap believers in YHWH is the idea of Moral Equivalence. You may experience questions like these:

(READ SLIDE)



Moral Equivalence?

Isn't Kosher and Halal the same thing? **No** Covenantal Deut. 14:21 vs. Universalized (Ta'zīr)

Doesn't the Older Testament espouse the same attitudes as the Koran? **No**

Aren't Allah and Adonai basically the same thing? **No**

Isn't Islam a great religion of Peace similar to Judaism and Christianity? **No**

Matthew 7:16
20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Let's do a survey of passages in the Word of God and the texts of Islam and see how morally equivalent they are.

(READ SLIDE)

Love Your Enemies Or Slay Your Enemies

Jesus Said:

Luke 6:35 (ESV)

35 But love your enemies,
and do good, and lend,
expecting nothing in
return, and your reward
will be great, and you will
be sons of the Most High,
for he is kind to the
ungrateful and the evil.

Muhammed Said:

Surah 6:191

And kill them wherever you find
them, and drive them out from
whence they drove you out, and
persecution is severer than
slaughter, and do not fight with
them at the Sacred Mosque until
they fight with you in it, but if
they do fight you, then slay them;
such is the recompense of the
unbelievers.

(READ SLIDE)

Merciful or Ruthless

Jesus Said:

Matthew 5:7, 46-7

Blessed are the merciful, for they
shall obtain
mercy...For if you love those who
love you, what reward have you?
Do not even the tax collectors do
the same? And if you salute only
your brethren, what more are you
doing than others?"

Muhammed Said:

Qur'an 48:29

"Muhammad is Allah's Apostle.
Those who follow him are ruthless
to the unbelievers but merciful to
one another."

(READ SLIDE)

Jesus and Islamic Writings

Jesus Said:

Matthew 10:14

"And if any one will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town."

Muhammed Said:

"Whoever changed his Islamic religion, then kill him."

Robert Spencer "The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam"

Muhammad al-Bukhari (810-870)

Bukhari, vol. 9, book 88, no. 6922

While this quote from Muhammed in the hadith is not in the quran you must understand that Apostasy became a **capital offense under Islamic law**, even though the Qur'an itself does not legislate it. Leaving Islam is no small matter in the muslim communities and can often cost people their safety, their family, their community, and even their lives. This is very real and must be considered as you minister...if they leave Islam this will probably cost them everything in a profoundly greater sense than most people in the west who identify as christians have ever considered.

(READ SLIDE)

Don't be Angry Or Cut Their Heads Off

Jesus Said:

Matthew 5:21-22

"You have heard that it was said to the men of old, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills shall be liable to judgment. But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire."

Muhammed Said:

Qur'an 47:4

"Therefore, when ye meet the unbelievers in fight, smite at their necks; at length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly on them thereafter is the time for either generosity or ransom, until the war lays down its burdens...But those who are slain in the Way of Allah, He will never let their deeds be lost."

(READ SLIDE)

Bless or Slay them

Jesus Said:

Matthew 5:11

"Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Muhammed Said:

Qur'an 2:191

"And slay them wherever ye find them, and drive them out of the places whence they drove you out, for persecution is worse than slaughter."

Qur'an 9:111

"Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs in return is the garden of Paradise: they fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: a promise binding on Him in truth.."

(READ SLIDE)

Giving Your Life Or Taking Life

Jesus Said:

John 16:2

"The hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God."

I was always told they respected the People of the Book... Turns out that means they may let you live if you accept mild inconveniences like exorbitant taxes, public humiliation, and of course the raping of your wives and daughters.

Muhammed Said:

Qur'an 9:29

"Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Mes-senger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, even if they are of the People of the Book [Jews and Christians], until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued."

(READ SLIDE)

The List Goes On... And On...

Jesus Said:

Mark 13:13

"And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved."

Muhammed Said:

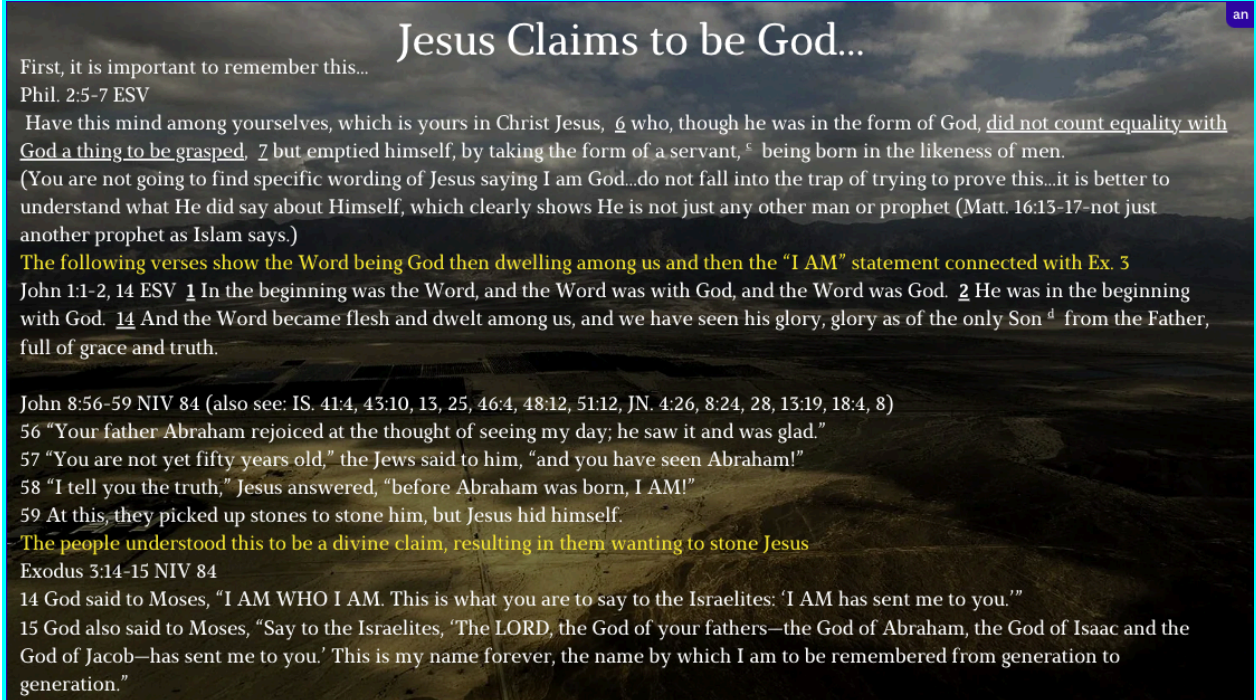
Qur'an 60:4

"There is for you an excellent example to follow in Abraham and those with him, when they said to their people: We are clear of you and of whatever ye worship besides Allah: we have rejected you, and there has arisen, between us and you, enmity and hatred for ever, unless ye believe in Allah and Him alone."

While all these principles show a compelling pattern that Islam is demonic, these facts alone will not be enough to free people from Islam. In fact, there

are many traps educated Muslims will try to bait you with. We wanted to share a few of those lies Muslims will try and use:

1. Jesus never said he was God



Jesus Claims to be God...

First, it is important to remember this...
Phil. 2:5-7 ESV
Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, ⁸ being born in the likeness of men.
(You are not going to find specific wording of Jesus saying I am God...do not fall into the trap of trying to prove this...it is better to understand what He did say about Himself, which clearly shows He is not just any other man or prophet (Matt. 16:13-17-not just another prophet as Islam says.)
The following verses show the Word being God then dwelling among us and then the "I AM" statement connected with Ex. 3
John 1:1-2, 14 ESV **1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son ^d from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 8:56-59 NIV 84 (also see: IS. 41:4, 43:10, 13, 25, 46:4, 48:12, 51:12, JN. 4:26, 8:24, 28, 13:19, 18:4, 8)
56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."
57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"
58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I AM!"
59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself.
The people understood this to be a divine claim, resulting in them wanting to stone Jesus
Exodus 3:14-15 NIV 84
14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"
15 God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation."

1. The Bible is corrupted and you cannot trust it



The Bible is Historically Reliable

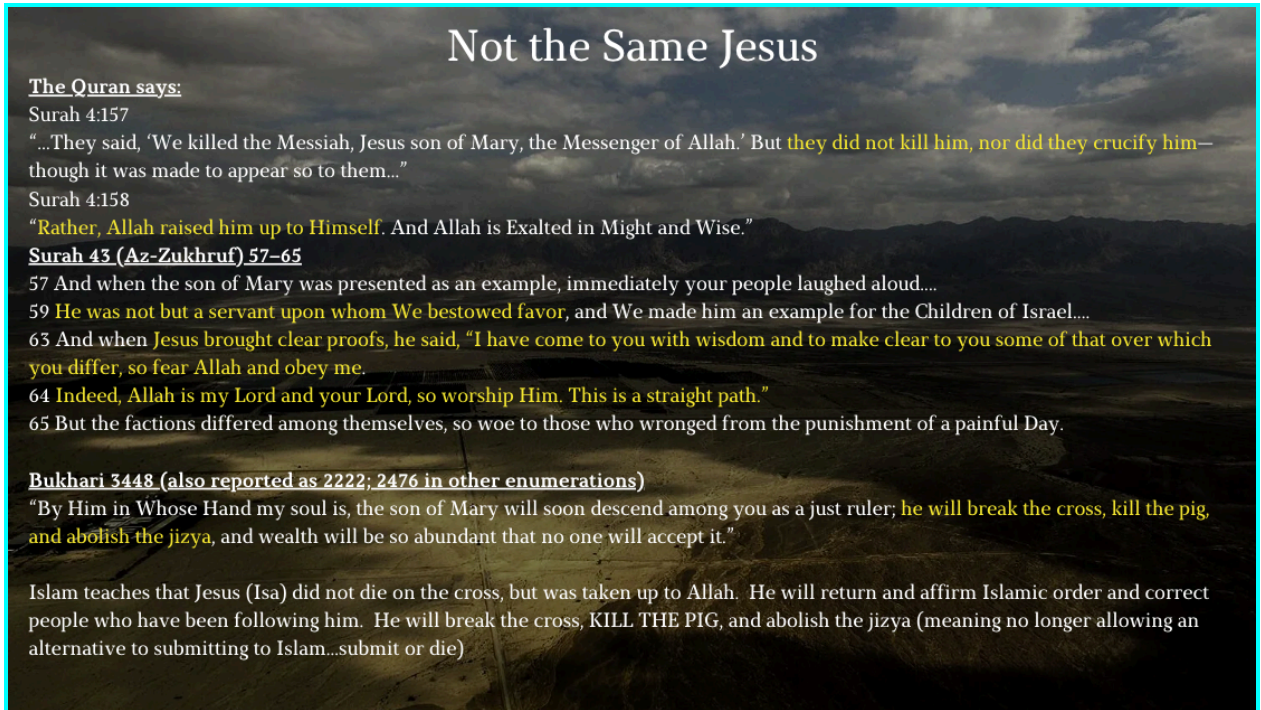
Translation does not equal corruption
• All ancient texts we trust exist only through copies and translations; meaning survives across languages.
Unmatched manuscript evidence
• Over 5,800 Greek New Testament manuscripts, many within 100–150 years of the originals.
Independent early translations
• 10,000+ Latin, Coptic, and Syriac translations, made independently from Greek — corruption would be instantly detectable.
30,000+ early quotations
• Church fathers quote the New Testament so extensively it can be reconstructed almost entirely from citations alone.
No central authority to alter the text
• Manuscripts spread across continents and languages — uniform, undetectable change is historically impossible.

The Bible wasn't preserved by control, but by uncontrollable abundance.

However, for Islam:

Sahih al-Bukhari 4987
*"Uthman ordered Zayd ibn Thabit, Abdullah ibn az-Zubayr, Sa'id ibn al-'As, and Abdur-Rahman ibn Harith ibn Hisham to rewrite the manuscripts in the Quraysh dialect... When they had copied the manuscripts, *Uthman sent one copy to each province and ordered that all other Qur'anic materials, whether written in fragmentary manuscripts or whole copies, be burned."
• Multiple written Qur'anic codices existed (e.g., Ibn Mas'ud, Ubayy ibn Ka'b)
• These codices differed in wording, order, or readings
• One version was selected
• All others were destroyed
• This was done to prevent disagreement, not to preserve variants

1. We both love Jesus



Not the Same Jesus

The Quran says:
Surah 4:157
“...They said, ‘We killed the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah.’ But **they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him—** though it was made to appear so to them...”
Surah 4:158
“**Rather, Allah raised him up to Himself.** And Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise.”
Surah 43 (Az-Zukhruf) 57–65
57 And when the son of Mary was presented as an example, immediately your people laughed aloud...
59 **He was not but a servant upon whom We bestowed favor, and We made him an example for the Children of Israel....**
63 And when **Jesus brought clear proofs, he said, “I have come to you with wisdom and to make clear to you some of that over which you differ, so fear Allah and obey me.**
64 **Indeed, Allah is my Lord and your Lord, so worship Him. This is a straight path.”**
65 But the factions differed among themselves, so woe to those who wronged from the punishment of a painful Day.
Bukhari 3448 (also reported as 2222; 2476 in other enumerations)
“By Him in Whose Hand my soul is, the son of Mary will soon descend among you as a just ruler; **he will break the cross, kill the pig, and abolish the jizya, and wealth will be so abundant that no one will accept it.”**
Islam teaches that Jesus (Isa) did not die on the cross, but was taken up to Allah. He will return and affirm Islamic order and correct people who have been following him. He will break the cross, KILL THE PIG, and abolish the jizya (meaning no longer allowing an alternative to submitting to Islam...submit or die)

All of these are clear lies and able to be proven easily as such in the scripture. But, what ends up happening is in conversations you will be baited into giving them the homecourt advantage by answering their prompts—they already have determined conclusions based on lies and deception.

The truth is: proving true any of these three statements, or revealing any of the above facts and comparisons will **not** work as a profound 'got ya' moment for a Muslim.

In addition to all of this it is important for you to understand that there is a final empire outlined in the prophetic scriptures of the Bible. One that will rise to encompass the earth. We put together one slide for you with a ton of pertinent scriptural information that clearly connects the specific nations prophesied about with their modern day country names as well as maps.

The Rising Kingdom: Islam

"Throughout the Scriptures, repeatedly and abundantly, whenever specific nations are named and highlighted for the judgment of God at the Day of the Lord, apart from the chastisement of His own people Israel, it is always pointing us to regions or nations that today are vastly dominated by Islam." - Joel Richardson

Numbers 24:14, 17-20 - Moab and Edom judged

Ancient Nations: Moab, Edom (modern day Jordan)

Isaiah 25:8-11 - Moab judged

Obadiah 1:8-10, 15, 17-20 - Edom judged

Isaiah 63:1-4 treading the wine press in Edom and Bozrah. (Bozrah (Now called Petra) was the capital city of Edom (Jordan)

Isaiah 34:5-9 - the Lord has a sacrifice in Bozrah and Edom.

Ezekiel 25:12-17 - judgment against Israel's surrounding neighbors. Ancient Nations: from Teman to Dedan (modern day Jordan to Northern Saudi Arabia). Ancient Nations: Philistines (modern day Palestinian Territories) and Cherethites (modern day Gaza).

"God's judgement against the region stretching from Jordan Southward along the Red Sea well into North-central Saudi Arabia."

Ezekiel 30:1-5 - judgment against Egypt, Cush (Sudan), Put (Libya), North Africa, Lud (Turkey) and all Arabia.

Zephaniah 2:3-5, 12, 15 - Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, Cherethites, Canaan, and the land of the Philistines utterly ruined (these names point to the whole region of modern day Israel's Southwest coast, including the Gaza Strip)

Zephaniah 2:8-9, 12-15 - Moab, Cushites, Assyria judged (Jordan/Syria, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq)

*Joel 3:1-4 - the Lord's judgment against Lebanon and Gaza for dividing the land. Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia (Lebanon and the Gaza Strip)

Source: Joel Richardson "Mideast Beast"

Judgment against Israel's surrounding neighbors/nations: (all Islamic nations)

Joel 3:11-12

Zechariah 12:2, 6, 14:2, 14, 16

Ezekiel 28:22-24

God's covenant with Ishmael (Genesis 16:10-12): -descendants would be greatly multiplied

-Would be given land east of Israel

-would be like wild donkeys and would always be in conflict with each other.

Daniel 2:41 - defining characteristic of the final empire is it would be "divided." Feet and toes/iron and clay.

History: shortly after Mohammed died division broke out between Shi'a and the Sunnis. "This division has defined Islam from its earliest days to its Modern Times."

Ezekiel 38:21 - every man's sword will be against his brother.

Zechariah 14:13 - the hand of one will be raised against the hand of another

Inside the Antichrist Kingdom they will kill each other.

Daniel 11:43 - Egypt, Libya, and Sudan follow Antichrist

Judgment against God and Magog Ezekiel 38:2-6 - the land of Magog (Turkey), prince of Meshech and Tubal (Turkey)... Persia (Iran), Cush (Northern Sudan), and Put (Libya) are with him... Gomer... Beth-togarmah...

Ezekiel 38-39 modern day nations listed - Turkey, Syria, Libya, N. Sudan, Iran, and "many nations with you."

Psalms 83 - Turkey, Syria, N. Africa, Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Arabs of West Bank and Gaza.



If we go back to the scriptures and actual look into the lives of Ishmael and Esau—what was the actual problem with those men?

- Was Ishmael's real issue with Isaac his little brother?
- Was Esau's actual issue with Jacob and the blessing given to him?

The answer - no.

When looking back on the story of Ishmael—any actual problem would be with the father, and with God. If there was actual trust in the father and faith that YHWH was sovereign over their lives and that His ways were best—then the choice of Isaac and being sent away would not be full of bitterness that turns into ancient hostility. It would be difficult, yet recognized as what was right and best.

In the case of Esau—who does he really have a problem with? Jacob deceived—yes. But regardless of his actions the outcome was always going to be the same. Before all of that happened, this was prophesied:

- **Genesis 25:23 (NIV)**

²³ The Lord said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger.”

Esau was always going to serve Jacob. The promise was always going to pass on to Jacob. Isaac could not stop it, Jacob could not control it, and Esau could not change it.

Despite this being the truth from the beginning—Esau refused to believe it resulting in his murderous response.

- **Daniel 4:35 (NIV)**

³⁵ All the peoples of the earth
are regarded as nothing.
He does as he pleases
with the powers of heaven
and the peoples of the earth.
No one can hold back his hand
or say to him: “What have you done?”

YHWH does whatever he pleases. He blessed all the sons of Abraham, but the promise came through Isaac and Jacob and no man can change that.

Whether it is accepted or not—the promise and covenant will always be on Israel, it will never be on Ishmael, Esau, or Mohammed. This is precisely why you cannot logic your way to a revelation with a Muslim. You cannot argue someone into repentance. Instead, our approach must be:



The first pillar is standing on scripture. The people you minister to do not need to hear your opinions and thoughts on a wide variety of issues. You must take your stand on the scripture. When speaking with Muslims or anyone else that you are ministering to, make sure that you are using scripture and presenting the Word of God as the rock on which you stand.

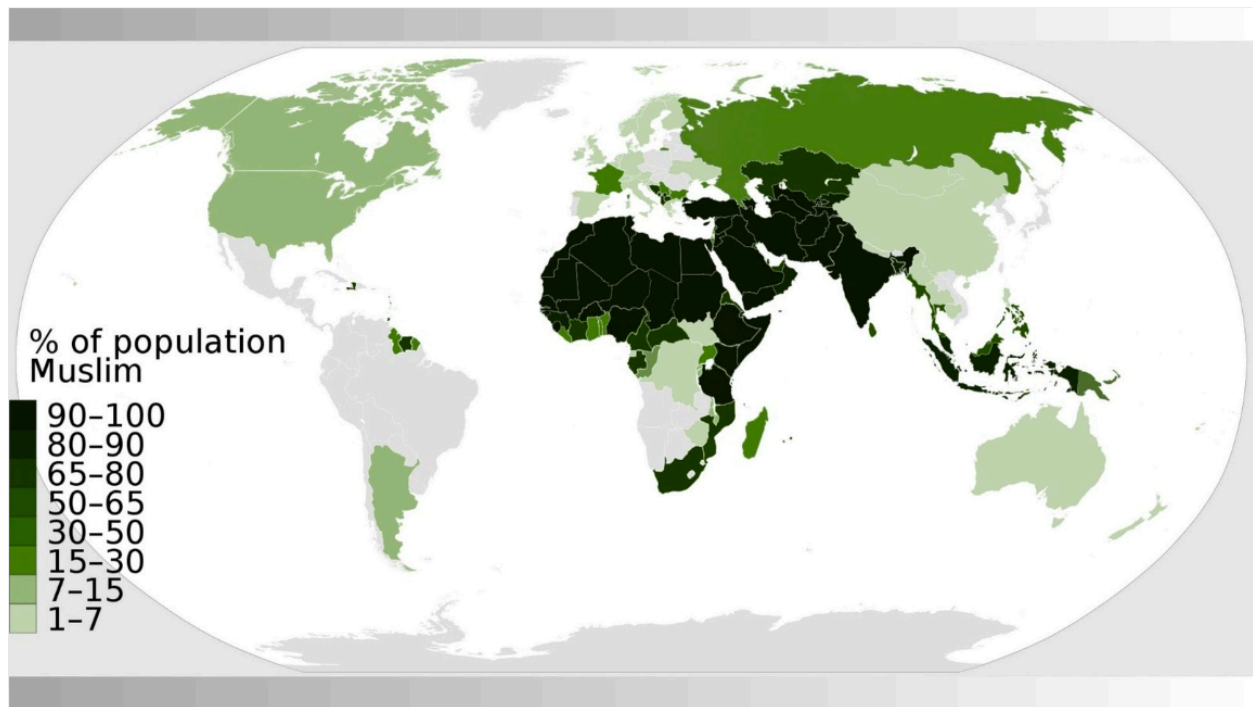
The second pillar is follow the Spirit. This can be as simple as you mentally pausing as you are speaking to ask the Lord to lead you and listening for His voice throughout the conversation. The gentle nudging's to push on an issue or even strong leadings to address sin or deliver a Word can be the catalyst that turns a casual conversation into a breakthrough moment.

The third pillar is address the heart. The fool says in his heart there is no God because he has taken part in an exchange, the truth for a lie. According to Romans 1, we see that those who suppress the truth are held accountable for it by God. In true apologetics, we are seeking to bypass any smoke screen or diversion topics and get right to the issue of the heart. We **defend** by stating the truth of scripture, and we **confirm** by stating our

experience from our own transformation. Seek out the issue of the heart and follow the Spirit to help see them freed.

The fourth pillar is to deliver in love. 1 Cor. 13:2 says “And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, **but have not love, I am nothing.**” Your high concern should not be to win an argument but to help someone be free...love will ensure that whether the truth you are speaking is affirming or corrective it is something the Holy Spirit can co-witness.

Let's go back to the map:



We are not going to take the time to go into all of the prophetic confirmation that Islam is the kingdom spreading to ultimately dominate the world...what we are going to say is that our hope is not in seeing Islam defeated...we want to see as many as we can set free from the clutches of Islam. The heart of this empire is the place where Abraham's sons first dwelt and when we look back at the stories of these men there are many encouraging signs that there will be a returning and reconciliation in spite of the nations that will rage until the end. Let's go back to the story of Ishmael and Isaac.

- **Genesis 25:7–9 (NIV)**

⁷ 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

Isaac and Ishmael were reunited to bury their father. Verse 9 say His sons buried him. The honor these sons had for their father brought the sons back together. Abraham was not just being buried, he was being positioned for his resurrection!

- **Genesis 33:4–5 (NIV)**

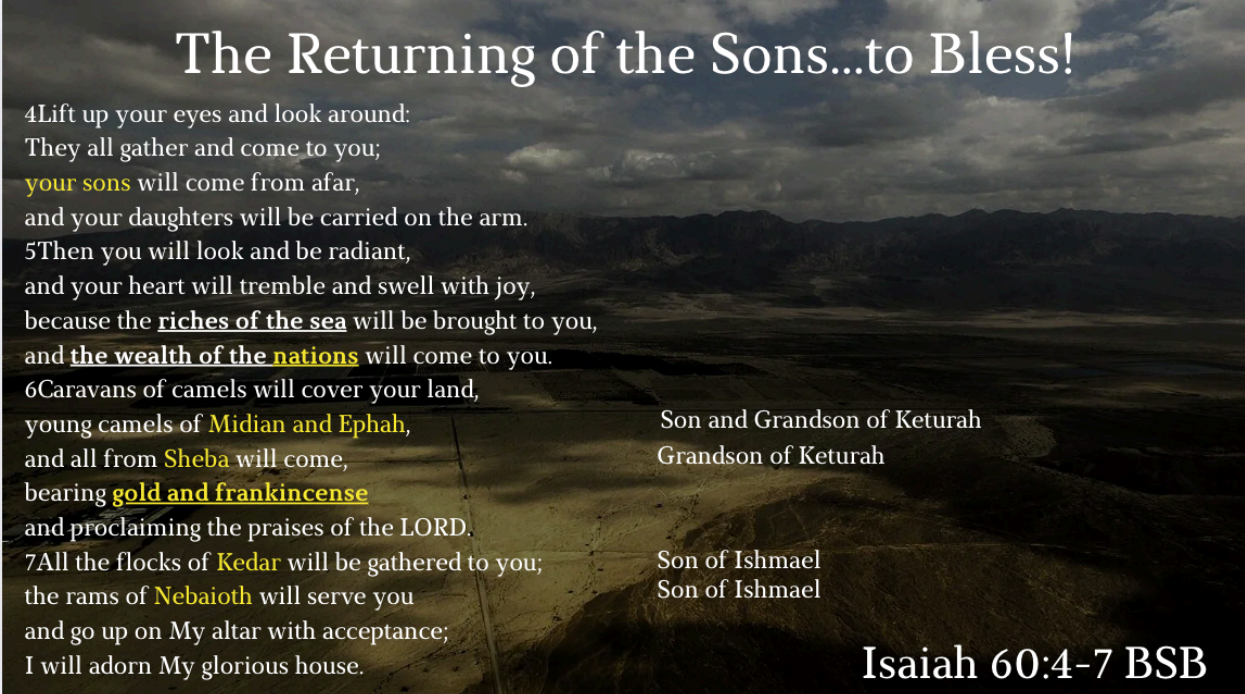
⁴ But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept. ⁵ Then Esau looked up and saw the women and children. “Who are these with you?” he asked. Jacob answered, “They are the children God has graciously given your servant.”

We do not have time to go into all of the beautiful things that are happening in this chapter (for more information check out foundations: Genesis 33) but these two brothers are reuniting and Jacob even says in v. 10

- **Genesis 33:10 (NIV 84)**

“No, please!” said Jacob. “If I have found favor in your eyes, accept this gift from me. **For to see your face is like seeing the face of God, now that you have received me favorably.**”

Jacob offers his blessing to Esau and Esau says no I have enough and Jacob says seeing his face is like seeing the face of God! This is miraculous reconciliation and gives us hope for future reconciliation between these sons of Abraham. Perhaps one of the most exciting passages for us on this topic is from the prophet Isaiah!



The Returning of the Sons...to Bless!

4Lift up your eyes and look around:
They all gather and come to you;
your sons will come from afar,
and your daughters will be carried on the arm.
5Then you will look and be radiant,
and your heart will tremble and swell with joy,
because the **riches of the sea** will be brought to you,
and the **wealth of the nations** will come to you.
6Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels of **Midian and Ephah**,
and all from **Sheba** will come,
bearing **gold and frankincense**
and **proclaiming** the praises of the LORD.
7All the flocks of **Kedar** will be gathered to you;
the rams of **Nebaioth** will serve you
and go up on My altar with acceptance;
I will adorn My glorious house.

Son and Grandson of Keturah
Grandson of Keturah

Son of Ishmael
Son of Ishmael

Isaiah 60:4-7 BSB

These sons of Abraham will return with the wealth of the nations singing the praise of the Lord and will beautify and adorn the glorious house of the Lord!

The message that we are wanting descendants of Ishmael to receive is that they are sons of Abraham who are meant to return home. There is a place for them in the family and house of God. Romans makes it clear that God will have the harvest among the gentiles that He is after and this includes gentiles who will have escaped the clutches of Islam.

- **Romans 11:25–26 (NIV)**

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, ²⁶ and in this way all Israel will be saved.

In God's sovereignty, the return of the full number of gentiles will also spark the salvation of Israel! And we have shown you that God's plan is for the gentiles who return to become servants of the children of promise! Do you want to see something amazing? Let's look back at the special instruction that was given from heaven that remains key for all of the descendants of Hagar and the house of Ishmael to this day!

- **Genesis 16:7–9 (ESV)**

⁷ The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, “Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai.” ⁹ The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her.”

Long have we taught at this church that we are called to be a spring in the desert! In Genesis 16 we see that Hagar was found by a spring of water in the desert. She was asked, Where have you come from....and where are you going??? What POWERFUL questions! She responds with, I am fleeing...fleeing from mistreatment, from hardship, from being a servant in the house of Abraham! But the instruction from heaven is **RETURN AND SUBMIT!** It turns out that rather than trying to make the rest of the world submit, Hagar and all who would come from her are destined to themselves, return and submit!

Beautiful examples of this are actually found in the house of King David, perhaps the clearest example of the beautified house filled with precious jewels from the nations until we get to the book of Revelation.

- **1 Chronicles 27:30–31 (NIV)**

³⁰ Obil the Ishmaelite was in charge of the camels.

Jehdeiah the Meronothite was in charge of the donkeys.

³¹ Jaziz the Hagrite was in charge of the flocks.

All these were the officials in charge of King David's property.

An Ishmaelite and a Hagrite in charge of the King's property! Surely this is a picture of the house of Hagar and Ishmael realizing their place within the King's house who have submitted to his instruction and are prospering as servants!

The descendants of Ishmael can be blessed and prosper, but it has to be in service and submission to the King of Israel.

So what are we do to?

How are we to assist in bringing the descendants of Ishmael and Esau to the King?

You are going to have to make room for them.

They have persecuted from the beginning. They have killed and waged war. They were sent away from Abraham. Yet—when they cry out Adonai, He will hear them.

Ishmael means “God Hears”

Genesis 16:11 (BSB)

11 The angel of the LORD proceeded:

“Behold, you have conceived and will bear a son. And you shall name him Ishmael, for **the LORD has heard your cry of affliction.**”

Genesis 21:17 (NET)

17 **God heard the boy crying,** and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has **heard the boy right where he is crying.**”

Genesis 17:20 (NIV)

²⁰ And as for Ishmael, **I have heard you:** I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.

He hears Hagar about Ishmael

He hears Abraham about Ishmael

He hears Ishmael himself!

God hears the cry of the lost souls trapped by the Satanic force of Islam. Will you hear their cry? Will you spend your life ensuring they are reconciled to their brother?

In the life of David we see a stark contrast we must wrestle with. Did you know David was related to an Ishmaelite?

- **1 Chronicles 2:13–17 (NIV)**

¹³ Jesse was the father of

Eliab his firstborn; the second son was Abinadab, the third

Shimea, ¹⁴ the fourth Nethanel, the fifth Raddai, ¹⁵ the sixth

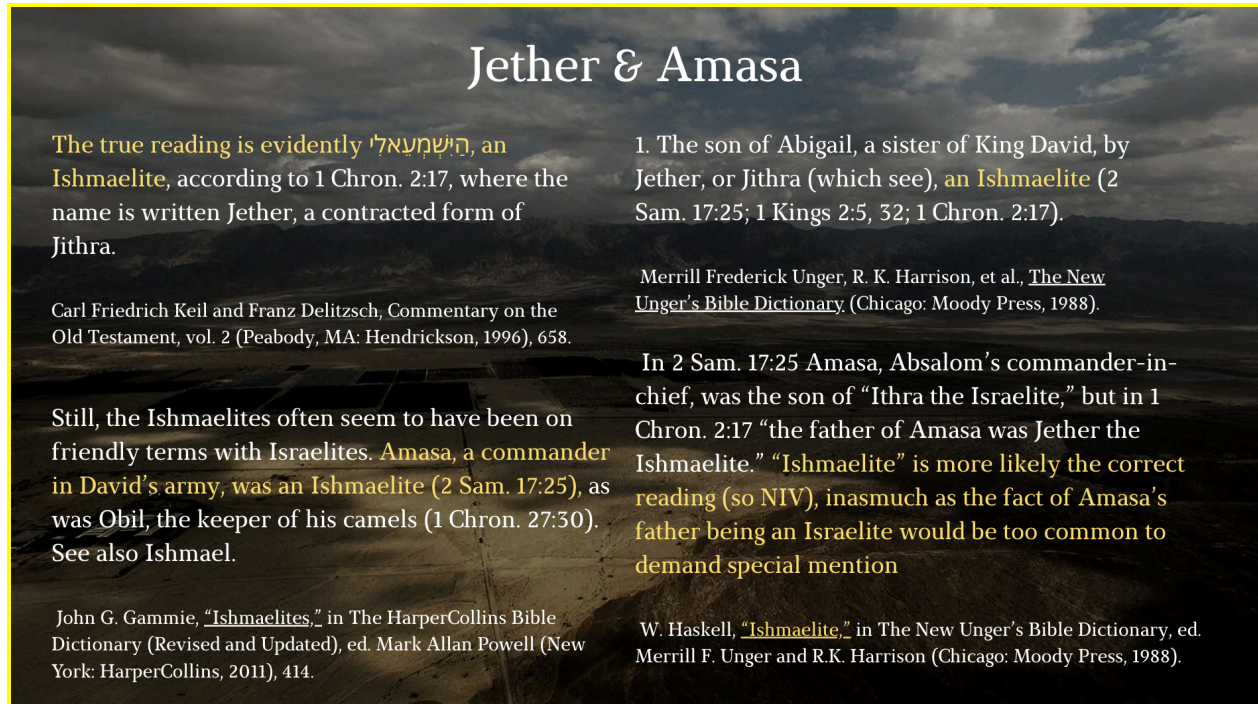
Ozem and the seventh David. ¹⁶ Their sisters were Zeruiah and

Abigail. Zeruiah’s three sons were Abishai, Joab and Asahel. ¹⁷

Abigail was the mother of Amasa, whose father was **Jether the Ishmaelite.**

David had a sister named Abigail. Abigail had a son named Amasa whose father was—Jether, and Ishmaelite.

(DO NOT READ)



Jether & Amasa

The true reading is evidently ה'יִשְׁמַעֲלִי, an **Ishmaelite**, according to 1 Chron. 2:17, where the name is written Jether, a contracted form of Jithra.

Carl Friedrich Keil and Franz Delitzsch, Commentary on the Old Testament, vol. 2 (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996), 658.

Still, the Ishmaelites often seem to have been on friendly terms with Israelites. **Amasa, a commander in David's army, was an Ishmaelite (2 Sam. 17:25), as was Obil, the keeper of his camels (1 Chron. 27:30). See also Ishmael.**

John G. Gammie, "Ishmaelites," in The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary (Revised and Updated), ed. Mark Allan Powell (New York: HarperCollins, 2011), 414.

1. The son of Abigail, a sister of King David, by Jether, or Jithra (which see), **an Ishmaelite** (2 Sam. 17:25; 1 Kings 2:5, 32; 1 Chron. 2:17).

Merrill Frederick Unger, R. K. Harrison, et al., The New Unger's Bible Dictionary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1988).

In 2 Sam. 17:25 Amasa, Absalom's commander-in-chief, was the son of "Ithra the Israelite," but in 1 Chron. 2:17 "the father of Amasa was Jether the Ishmaelite." **"Ishmaelite" is more likely the correct reading (so NIV), inasmuch as the fact of Amasa's father being an Israelite would be too common to demand special mention**

W. Haskell, "Ishmaelite," in The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, ed. Merrill F. Unger and R.K. Harrison (Chicago: Moody Press, 1988).

For further study, you can go back and read this slide that discusses a discrepancy in genealogy. What is truly incredible is how David treats his nephew, the son of an Ishmaelite, despite what he had done.

- **2 Samuel 17:24–26 (NIV)**

²⁴ David went to Mahanaim, and Absalom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel. ²⁵ Absalom had appointed Amasa over the army in place of Joab. **Amasa was the son of Jether, an Ishmaelite** who had married Abigail, the daughter of Nahash and sister of Zeruiah the mother of Joab. ²⁶ The Israelites and Absalom camped in the land of Gilead.

Amasa sides with Absalom, a son who is rejected from the throne of Israel in favor of his younger brother...Sound familiar? The ancient hostility is perpetuating. But that is not how the story ends.

- **2 Samuel 19:11–13 (NIV)**

¹¹ King David sent this message to Zadok and Abiathar, the priests: “Ask the elders of Judah, ‘Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his palace, since what is being said throughout Israel has reached the king at his quarters?’ ¹² You are my relatives, my own flesh and blood. So why should you be the last to bring back the king?’ ¹³ And say to Amasa, ‘Are you not my own flesh and blood? May God deal with me, be it ever so severely, if you are not the commander of my army for life in place of Joab.’ ”

Amasa acts against the rightful King of Israel and is the commander of the army of a sinful son trying to take the throne that was never meant for him. Yet despite this David makes room in his heart and offers him the chance to return...and submit to the true King of Israel. Amasa does return and submit. But not everyone had room in their heart for his returning.

- **2 Samuel 20:9–10 (NIV)**

⁹ Joab said to Amasa, “How are you, my brother?” Then Joab took Amasa by the beard with his right hand to kiss him. ¹⁰ Amasa was not on his guard against the dagger in Joab’s hand, and Joab plunged it into his belly, and his intestines spilled out on the ground. Without being stabbed again, Amasa died. Then Joab and his brother Abishai pursued Sheba son of Bikri.

Joab, driven by jealousy and selfish ambition feigns brotherly affection for murder.

You may think to yourself—I am not Joab, I would never put myself in the path a son of Ishmael returning to the King. Let us ask you this—Why do you think 98% of missions take place outside majority Muslim nations?

Why is the Christian world so averse to the sons who are destined to returned but are captives to Satan? Sometimes Joab doesn't look like killing on the road, but it might look like never going in the first place to find the next Amasa and give him the chance to return and submit to the true King of Israel.

- **Romans 10:12–15 (NIV)**

¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same

Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for,

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?

And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to

them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

There is a blessing for both brothers. All who call on the Lord are richly blessed. The Destiny of Ishmael is to be blessed and a servant to the rightful King and true Son—Yeshua. But first, someone has to tell them. Will you?