

1 Chronicles 1:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bare Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan; Sheba, and Dedan.

Analysis

The sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine (בְּנֵי קֶטוּרָה פִּילְגֶּשׁ אֲבְרָהָם)—after Sarah's death, Abraham married קֶטוּרָה (Qeturah, 'incense' or 'fragrance'), producing six sons including Midian. Though legitimate sons, Genesis 25:6 specifies Abraham gave them gifts and sent them eastward, reserving Isaac's inheritance. Midian's descendants became the Midianites, both trading partners (Genesis 37:28) and enemies (Numbers 25, Judges 6-8) of Israel.

This demonstrates God's blessing extended beyond Isaac while maintaining covenant exclusivity. Abraham's fruitfulness fulfilled God's promise to make him 'father of many nations' (Genesis 17:5), yet the covenant line ran singularly through Isaac and Jacob—foreshadowing salvation's particularity through Christ while God's common grace extends universally.

Historical Context

Abraham remarried after Sarah's death at age 127 (Genesis 23:1), when he was 137. He lived another 38 years (died at 175), making Keturah's sons contemporaries of Jacob's youth. The Midianites settled east of Jordan and northwest Arabia, trading in spices and controlling caravan routes.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's blessing of Keturah's sons alongside covenant promises to Isaac reflect His common grace while maintaining particular election?
2. What does Abraham's provision for all his children while preserving Isaac's unique inheritance teach about God's justice and mercy?

Interlinear Text

וְבָנָי	קֶטוּרָה ה	פִּילֵגָשׁ	אַבְרָהָם	יָלַדָהּ	אֶת	זִמְרָן
And the sons	of Keturah	concubine	Abraham's	she bare	H853	Zimran
H1121	H6989	H6370	H85	H3205		H2175
וְיָקֹשׁ	וּמֵדָן	וּמִדְיָן	וְיִשְׁבָּק	וְשׁוּאִי		וְבָנָי
and Jokshan	and Medan	and Midian	and Ishbak	and Shuah		And the sons
H3370	H4091	H4080	H3435	H7744		H1121
וְיָקֹשׁ	שָׁבָא	וּדְדָן				
and Jokshan	Sheba	and Dedan				
H3370	H7614	H1719				