A Biographical Study of Ishmael

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Ishmael

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

I. The prophecies concerning Ishmael
   A. Before his birth
      1. Ishmael’s name was given to his mother Hagar by the Lord himself before his birth (Gen. 16:11).
      2. God also predicted he would live a wild life, fighting with both friend and foe (Gen. 16:12).
   B. After his birth
      2. Ishmael was circumcised by Abraham when he was 13 years old (Gen. 17:24-26).

II. The provocation by Ishmael
   A. Later Ishmael incurred the wrath of Sarah when he mocked her son Isaac on the day set aside to celebrate his weaning (Gen. 21:9-10).
   B. At the command of God, Abraham sent both Hagar and Ishmael away from his camp (Gen. 21:11-13).

III. The provision
   A. God made provision for Ishmael as he grew up in the desert of Paran, where he became an archer (Gen. 21:20-21).
   B. He later married an Egyptian wife (Gen. 21:21).
   C. One of his daughters was named Mahalath. She later became the wife of Esau (Gen. 28:9; 36:3).

STATISTICS

Father: Abraham (Gen. 16:15)
Mother: Hagar (Gen. 16:15)
Daughter: Mahalath (Gen. 28:9; 36:3)
Brothers: Half-brothers were: Isaac, Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah (Gen. 21:3; 25:2)
First mention: Genesis 16:11
Final mention: 1 Chronicles 1:31
Meaning of his name: “God is hearing”
Frequency of his name: Referred to 20 times
Biblical books mentioning him: Two books (Genesis, 1 Chronicles)
Occupation: Hunter (Archer? Gen. 21:20)
Age at death: 137 (Gen. 25:17)
Important fact about his life: He was Abraham’s first son (Gen. 16:15)