10-2018

A Biographical Study of Ishmael

Harold Willmington
Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/ot_biographies

Part of the Biblical Studies Commons, Christianity Commons, and the Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/ot_biographies/15

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the A Biographical Study of Individuals of the Bible at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in Old Testament Biographies by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunication@liberty.edu.
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
      1. God promised Abraham that he would bless Ishmael, and make him the
      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)