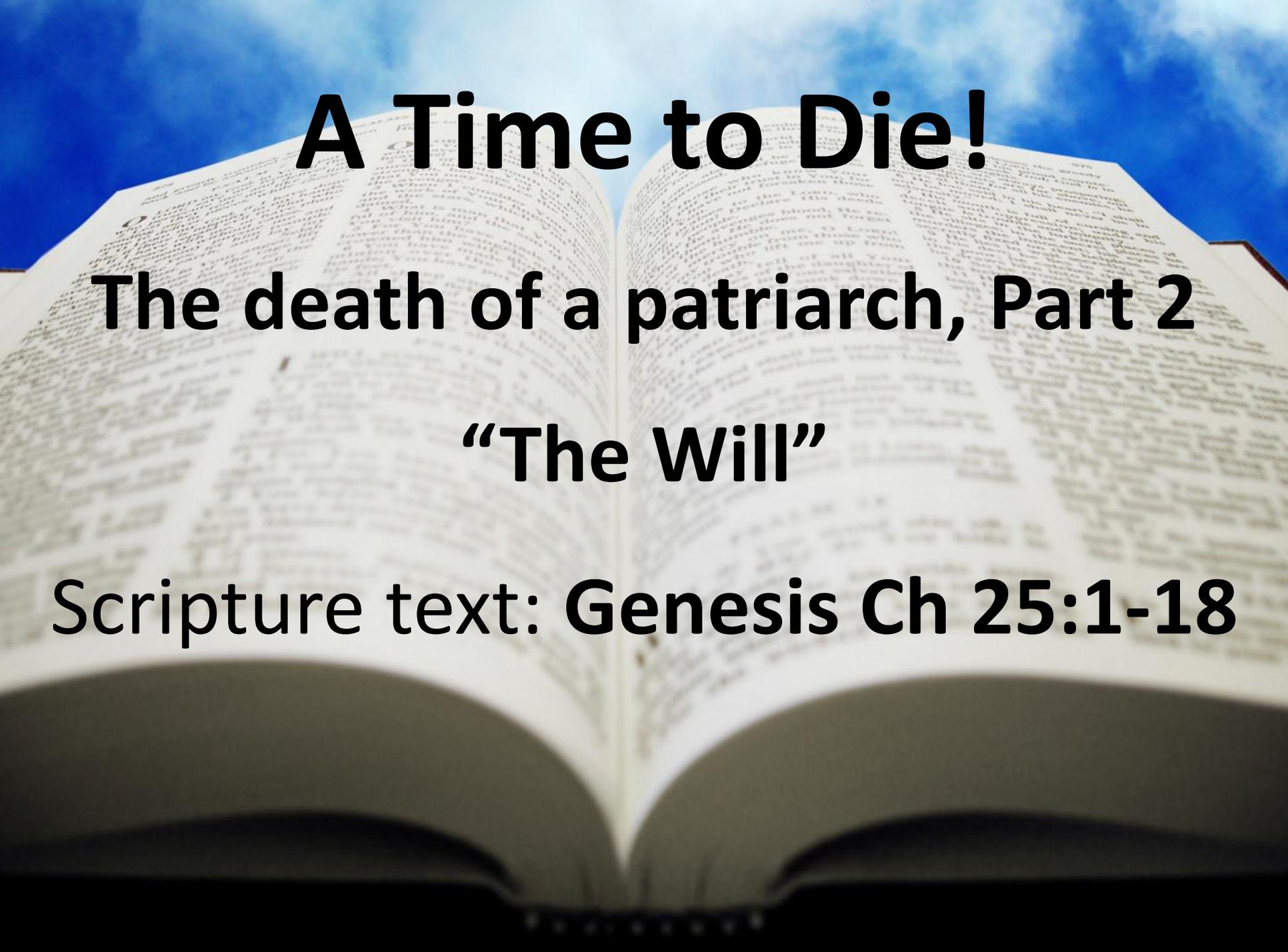


Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!





A Time to Die!

The death of a patriarch, Part 2

“The Will”

Scripture text: Genesis Ch 25:1-18

Abraham's will (Gen. 25:1–6). Abraham left his material wealth to his family and **his spiritual wealth to the whole world, all who would believe on Jesus Christ.**

When God renewed Abraham's natural strength for the begetting of Isaac, He did not take that strength away; and Abraham was able to marry again and have another family. However, **he made a distinction between these six new sons and his son Isaac; for Isaac was God's choice to carry on the covenant line.** Keturah's sons received gifts, but Isaac received the inheritance and the blessings of the covenant.

All who have trusted **Jesus Christ** are “**as Isaac was, the children of promise**”. This means that we have a **share in Abraham’s will!** What did he leave us?

To begin with, Abraham left us **a clear witness of salvation through faith**. Paul cited his example in Romans 4:1–5, relating it to Abraham’s experience in Genesis 15. Abraham could not have been saved by keeping the Law because the Law had not yet been given. He could not have been saved by the ritual of circumcision because God declared him to be righteous long before Abraham was circumcised. Like everybody else who has ever been saved, **Abraham was saved by faith and by faith alone.**

Romans 4:1-5 What then shall we say **was gained by Abraham**, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.**" Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but **believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,**

Hebrews 11:8-12 **By faith Abraham obeyed** when he was **called to go out** to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **By faith he went to live in the land of promise**, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. **By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive**, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Galatians 3:5-8 Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith-- just as **Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"**? Know then that it is **those of faith who are the sons of Abraham.** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, **"In you shall all the nations be blessed."**

But Abraham also **leaves us the example of a faithful life**. James used Abraham to illustrate the importance of **proving our faith by our works** (James 2:14–26). Wherever Abraham went, he pitched his tent and built his altar; and he let the people of the land know that **he was a worshiper of the true and living God**. When he offered Isaac on the altar, **Abraham proved his faith in God and his love for God**. He was **not saved by works, but he proved his faith by his works**.

James 2:14-20 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? **Can that faith save him?** If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? **So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.** But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.** You believe that God is one; you do well. **Even the demons believe--and shudder!** Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

James 2:21-26 Was not Abraham our father **justified by works** when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that **faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works;** and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "**Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness**"--and he was called **a friend of God.** You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? **For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.**

From Abraham, **we learn how to walk by faith.** True, he had his occasional lapses of faith; **but the general manner of his life evidenced faith in God's Word.** "By faith Abraham ... **obeyed**" (Heb. 11:8). "The pith, the essence of faith," said Charles Spurgeon, "**lies in this: a casting oneself on the promises.**"

The late composer-conductor Leonard Bernstein said to an interviewer, "I believe in everything, in anything that anybody believes in, because I believe in people. In other words, I believe in belief. I believe in faith" (*Maestro: Encounters With Conductors of Today*, by Helena Matheopoulos; Harper & Row, 1982; p. 7).

But “faith in faith” is not the same as faith in God, because it has no foundation. It is building on the sand (Matt. 7:24–27).

True faith is our obedient response to the Word of God.

God speaks, we hear Him and believe, and **we do what He tells us to do.** Abraham and Sarah held on to God’s promises and God rewarded their faith.

Matthew 7:24-27 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine **and does them** will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, **because it had been founded on the rock**. And everyone who hears these words of mine **and does not do them** will be like a foolish man **who built his house on the sand**. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and **it fell, and great was the fall of it.**"

Abraham gave the world the gift of the Jewish nation; and it is through the Jews that we have the knowledge of the true God plus the Word of God and the salvation of God (John 4:22). It is beyond my understanding how anybody could be anti-Semitic when the Jews have given so much to the world and have suffered so much in this world. It is unfortunate that the Jewish people thought their relationship to Abraham saved them (Matt. 3:7–12; John 8:33–59), but they are no different from unsaved Gentiles who think they are going to heaven because their parents or grandparents were Christians (John 1:11–13).

John 4:21-26 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, **for salvation is from the Jews.** But the hour is coming, and is now here, **when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.** God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

Matthew 3:7-10 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "**You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,'** for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. **Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

Matthew 3:11-12 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and **he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn,** but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Was John concerned about their feelings or about their very souls?

Finally, because of Abraham, we have a Savior. In the first verse of the New Testament (Matt. 1:1), Abraham's name is joined with the names of David and Jesus Christ! **God promised Abraham that through him all the world would be blessed (Gen. 12:1–3), and He has kept that promise.** The problem is that **the church is not telling the whole world that Jesus is indeed “the Savior of the world” (John 4:42).** We are keeping the good news to ourselves when we ought to be doing everything we can to let the whole world know.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And **I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

John 4:42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and **we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.**"

Ephesians 2:4-10 But God, **being rich in mercy**, because of the great love with which he loved us, **even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ**--by grace you have been saved--and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **For by grace you have been saved through faith.** And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God, not a result of works**, so that no one may boast. **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, **that we should walk in them.**

There can be only one Abraham and Sarah in God's great plan of redemption, but you and I have our tasks to perform in the will of God (Eph. 2:10). **Today, you are writing your obituary and preparing your "last will and testament" as far as your spiritual heritage is concerned.** Today you are getting ready for the last stage of life's journey.

Are you making good preparations?

Are you living by faith?

**If you live by faith, then you will, like Abraham,
BE OBEDIENT.**

In my tenure as a minister I have done numerous funeral services, everyone different, yet there are some consistencies with every family.

The lost of a loved one can either bring a family closer together, or strife, greed, and descension can tear a family apart with lasting repercussions.

This is even true with Abraham, and his children.

Genesis 25:1-4 Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. She bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. Jokshan fathered Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim. The sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

Keturah (ket-u'-rah) = Incense; the smoke of incense.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Zimran (zim'-ran) = Celebrated; sung; a chanter; the singer.

Jokshan (jok'-shan) = Sportsman; fowler; (root = to lay snares; to be a bird catcher).

Medan (me'-dan) = Strife; contention; a striver; judgment. Discernment.

Median (me'-de-an) = Same as Madai = Extended of the LORD; (roots = [1] to measure; [2] Jehovah). My measure.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Ishbak (ish'-bak) = Free; empty; exhausted; he releases. He will leave (alone). Chaldean: Forsaken.

Shuah (shu'-ah) = Prostration; affluence; depression; (root = to be bowed down). 1 Chronicles 4:11 - a pit.

Sheba #1 (she'-bah) = Main. He who is coming.

Sheba #2 (she'-bah) = An oath. Captive.

Dedan (de'-dan) = Leading forward; (root = to go forward; to go softly). Low; their friendship. In judgment. Their love.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Asshurim (ash'-u-rim) = Steps; going forward; (root = to go straight on). Mighty ones.

Letushim (le-tu'-shim) = Artificers; one who hammers; those who sharpen; the hammered. Oppressed; struck. Sharpened ones; hammered ones.

Leummim (le-um'-mim) = Peoples; nations.

Ephah (e'-fah) = Darkness; obscurity. A measure.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

Epher (e'-fur) = A young hart; calf. Mule; young calf.
Dustiness.

Hanoch (ha'-nok) = Dedicated. Same as Enoch =
initiated; initiating; dedicated; experienced.

Abida (ab'-id-ah) = Father of knowledge; my father
knows.

Eldaah (el'-da-ah) = Whom God called. God has
known.

The exhaustive dictionary of Bible names

1 Chronicles 1:32-33 The sons of **Keturah**, Abraham's concubine: she bore Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah. The sons of Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan. The sons of Midian: Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abida, and Eldaah. All these were the descendants of Keturah.

Genesis 25:5-6 Abraham gave all he had to Isaac. But to the **sons of his concubines Abraham gave gifts, and while he was still living he sent them away** from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.

Exodus 2:14-17 He answered, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid, and thought, "Surely the thing is known." When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and **stayed in the land of Midian**. And he sat down by a well. Now the **priest of Midian** had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock.

Judges 6:1-3 The people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD gave them into the hand of **Midian** seven years. And the hand of **Midian overpowered Israel**, and because of Midian the people of Israel made for themselves the dens that are in the mountains and the caves and the strongholds. For whenever the Israelites planted crops, the **Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East would come up against them.**

1 Kings 10:1-3 Now when the queen of **Sheba** heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. And **Solomon answered all her questions**; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her.