

# ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH

## A Classic Series

What a Way to Go!

Genesis 25:1–10



### LET'S BEGIN HERE

Many people, if not most, expect the twilight years of their lives to be characterized by four “uns”—*unproductive, unhappy, unhealthy, and unfulfilling*. How *unfortunate!* We don't find that kind of thinking in the Bible, especially not among the great men and women in God's “Hall of Faith.” For them, life remained meaningful right up to the end. All their days were filled with important decisions, joyful events, and purposeful involvements. And why not? Admittedly, aging has its challenges, but when the Lord grants us long lives, surely He wants us to make the most of each day. As Abraham neared the sunset of his life, he experienced many losses, but he clearly didn't waste his retirement years sitting around feeling sorry for himself. Instead, he lived the last years of his life to their fullest, cherishing every day as a gift. From his example, we can learn a lot about ending well and finishing strong.



### LET'S DIG DEEPER

#### 1. The Twilight Years: Some Common Reactions

Instead of embracing the excitement and possibilities of new opportunities, many in the twilight years of their lives exhibit certain common reactions:

- Narcissism
- Pessimism
- Fatalism



## Quotable

*Why do so many of us choose to stop living so young when God has given us a long life? Let's live until we die.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 2013 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM21

# ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH

## A Classic Series

What a Way to Go!

Genesis 25:1–10

### 2. The Aging Abraham: An Uncommon Example

Whereas many would have a good reason to be weary in their retiring years, Abraham enjoyed each day as a blessing from God. As such, he became an uncommon example for us.

- His new wife (Genesis 25:1)
- His second family (25:2–4)
- His generous inheritance (25:5–6)
- His satisfying departure (25:7–10)



#### DOORWAY TO HISTORY

##### *Concubines*

First Chronicles 1:32 refers to Keturah as Abraham's "concubine," and Genesis 25:6 suggests that both Hagar and Keturah held this same designation. *Concubine* was likely used to legally differentiate between Isaac—the rightful heir through Sarah—and Abraham's other children, who did not have the same right of inheritance.

In Abraham's day, the right of inheritance belonged to the children of the primary marriage. The Code of Hammurabi, which reflected the customs and practices of the ancient Near East in Abraham's day, noted specifically that concubines never had the same rights as wives.<sup>1</sup> This legal distinction of heirs demonstrates that even in biblical times, monogamy was regarded as the ideal, though legal allowance was made to provide additional children to a household that required them. This practice also explains why Isaac received all of Abraham's possessions after his death.

The term *concubine*, therefore, doesn't indicate that Keturah was a live-in lover or illicit mistress whom Abraham took to satisfy his carnal lusts. Rather, the term was likely used to distinguish between Sarah, the wife whose child had full rights of inheritance, and Keturah, the wife whose children did not have the same legal rights.



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 2013 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM21

# ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH

## A Classic Series

What a Way to Go!

*Genesis 25:1–10*



### LET'S LIVE IT

Many people start the marathon of life well, but few finish as strongly as Abraham. As we consider Abraham's closing years, two valuable secrets to finishing well present themselves:

- Being faithful to remember each day offers opportunities for staying young at heart
  
- Being diligent to refuse to give up—right to the very end

What are you doing right now to keep vibrant, romantic, passionate, fulfilled, satisfied, interested, growing, and learning? Make a list of activities that you think are contributing to these qualities of staying young at heart.

If you had trouble making a list, what *could* you be doing that you're not? Name three things that you can begin doing right away.

#### ENDNOTE

1. See Roland de Vaux, *Ancient Israel: Its Life and Institutions*, The Biblical Resource Series, trans. Darton, Longman, and Todd (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 24.



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 2013 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM21

# ABRAHAM: ONE NOMAD'S AMAZING JOURNEY OF FAITH

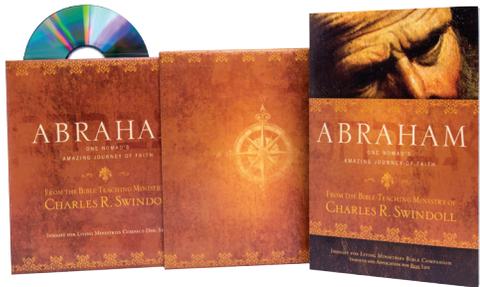
## A Classic Series

What a Way to Go!

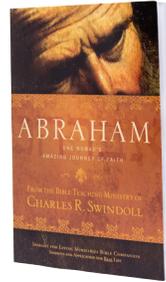
*Genesis 25:1-10*



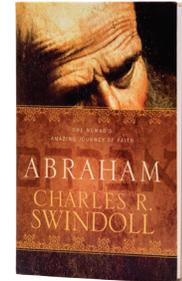
Tools for Digging Deeper



**Abraham: One Nomad's  
Amazing Journey of Faith**  
by Charles R. Swindoll and  
Insight for Living Ministries  
Classic CD series and  
softcover Bible Companion



**Abraham: One Nomad's  
Amazing Journey of Faith**  
by Insight for Living Ministries  
softcover Bible Companion



**Abraham: One Nomad's  
Amazing Journey of Faith**  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
hardcover book

For related resources, please call USA 1-800-772-8888 • AUSTRALIA 1300 467 444 • CANADA 1-800-663-7639 • UK 0800 787 9364



[www.insight.org](http://www.insight.org) | [www.insightworld.org](http://www.insightworld.org)

Original outline copyright © 2013 and Message Mate copyright © 2014 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.  
All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.  
**Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application**

MM21