

### **~ISHMAELITE (237)**

**(Ish'ma-el-ite) [Of, or belonging to, Ishmael]**

- **A descendant of Ishmael, the firstborn son of Abraham by Hagar, the Egyptian handmaid of Sarah.**
- **Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children, but she had an Egyptian maidservant and her name was Hagar. ([Genesis 16:1](#))**
- **Hence Sarai said to Abram; Please now! Yehowah has shut me off from bearing children. Please, have relations with my maidservant. Perhaps I may get children from her. So Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ([Genesis 16:2](#))**
- **Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar, her Egyptian maidservant, at the end of ten years of Abram's dwelling in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her husband as his wife. ([Genesis 16:3](#))**
- **Accordingly he had relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she became aware that she was pregnant, then her mistress began to be despised in her eyes. ([Genesis 16:4](#))**
- **Further Yehowah's angel added to her; Here you are pregnant, and you shall give birth to a son and must call his name Ishmael, for Yehowah has heard your affliction. ([Genesis 16:11](#))**
- **Ishmael, in turn, married an Egyptian by whom he had 12 sons, Nebaioth, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, Kedemah, the chieftains of the various **Ishmaelite** clans.**
- **And he took up dwelling in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother proceeded to take a wife for him from the land of Egypt. ([Genesis 21:21](#))**
- **Now these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their family origins. **Ishmael's** firstborn Nebaioth and Kedar and Adbeel and Mibsam. ([Genesis 25:13](#))**
- **And Mishma and Dumah and Massa. ([Genesis 25:14](#))**

- Hadad and Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. ([Genesis 25:15](#))
- These are the sons of **Ishmael**, and these are their names by their courtyards and by their walled camps, twelve chieftains according to their clans. ([Genesis 25:16](#))
- The **Ishmaelites**, therefore, were at the start one fourth Semitic and three fourths Hamitic, racially speaking.
- As God had promised, the **Ishmaelites** grew to become, a great nation, that could not be numbered for multitude.
- But as regards **Ishmael** I have heard you. Look! I will bless him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him very, very much. He will certainly produce twelve chieftains, and I will make him become a great nation. ([Genesis 17:20](#))
- Then Yehowah's angel said to her; I shall greatly multiply your seed, so that it will not be numbered for multitude. ([Genesis 16:10](#))
- But instead of settling down, they built few cities, they preferred the nomadic life. Ishmael himself was, a zebra of a man; that is, a restless wanderer who roamed the Wilderness of Paran and lived by his bow and arrows.
- His descendants were likewise tent-dwelling Bedouin for the most part, a people who ranged over the Sinai Peninsula from, in front of Egypt, that is, to the East of Egypt and across northern Arabia as far as Assyria.
- They were noted for being a fierce, warlike people hard to get along with, even as it was said of their father Ishmael;
- As for him, he will become a zebra of a man. His hand will be against everyone, and the hand of everyone will be against him, and before the face of all his brothers he will tabernacle. ([Genesis 16:12](#))
- And God continued to be with the boy, and he kept growing and dwelling in the wilderness. and he became an archer. ([Genesis 21:20](#))
- And he took up dwelling in the wilderness of Paran, and his

mother proceeded to take a wife for him from the land of Egypt.  
(Genesis 21:21)

- These are the sons of Ishmael, and these are their names by their courtyards and by their walled camps, twelve chieftains according to their clans. (Genesis 25:16)
- And they took up tabernacling from Havilah near Shur, which is in front of Egypt, as far as Assyria. In front of all his brothers he settled down. (Genesis 25:18)
- In further describing the **Ishmaelites**, it is said; In front of all his brothers he settled down, **Hebrew, *na-phal'***.
- And they took up tabernacling from Havilah near Shur, which is in front of Egypt, as far as Assyria. In front of all his brothers he settled down. (Genesis 25:18)
- Similarly, the Midianites and their allies, it was said; were **plumped *no-phelim'***, a participle form of ***na-phal'*** in the low plain in Israelite territory until Gideon's band forcefully routed them.
- Then Jerubbaal, that is to say; Gideon, and all the people who were with him, rose early and took up camping at the well of Harod, and the camp of Midian happened to be on the north of him, at the hill of Moreh, in the low plain. (Judges 7:1)
- Now Midian and Amalek and all the Easterners were **plumped** in the low plain as numerous as locusts, and their camels were without number, as numerous as the grains of sand that are on the seashore. (Judges 7:12)
- Hence, when the **Ishmaelites settled down** it was evidently with the intent of holding on to the region until forcefully removed.
- In the course of time it is quite likely that intermarriage between **Ishmaelites** and descendants of Abraham through Keturah.
- Furthermore, Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah. (Genesis 25:1)
- In time she bore him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. (Genesis 25:2)

- And Jokshan became father to Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan became Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim. (**Genesis 25:3**)
- And the sons of Midian were Ephah and Epher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah. (**Genesis 25:4**)
- Occurred, resulting in the inhabitants of sections of Arabia. Since **Ishmael** and Midian were half brothers, any intermarriage of their respective descendants with the amalgamation of their blood, habits, traits, and occupations could have given rise to an interchangeable usage of the terms, **Ishmaelites** and **Midianites**, as is noted in the description of the caravan that sold Joseph into Egyptian slavery.
- Then they sat down to eat bread. When they raised their eyes and took a look, why, here was a caravan of **Ishmaelites** that was coming from Gilead, and their camels were carrying labdanum and balsam and resinous bark, on their way to take it down to Egypt. (**Genesis 37:25**)
- At this Judah said to his brothers; What profit would there be in case we killed our brother and did cover over his blood? (**Genesis 37:26**)
- Come and let us sell him to the **Ishmaelites**, and do not let our hand be upon him. After all, he is our brother, our flesh. So they listened to their brother. (**Genesis 37:27**)
- Now men, Midianite merchants, went passing by. Hence they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the water-pit and then sold Joseph to the **Ishmaelites** for twenty silver pieces. Eventually these brought Joseph into Egypt. (**Genesis 37:28**)
- As for Joseph, he was brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, a court official of Pharaoh, the chief of the bodyguard, an Egyptian, got to buy him from the hand of the **Ishmaelites** who had brought him down there. (**Genesis 39:1**)
- In the days of Gideon the hordes that invaded Israel were described as both Midianites and **Ishmaelites**, one of the identifying marks of the latter being their gold nose rings.
- And Gideon went on to say to them; Let me make a request of

you. Give me, each one of you, the nose ring of his booty. For they had nose rings of gold, because they were **Ishmaelites**.  
(Judges 8:24)

- They also got to capture the two princes of Midian, namely, Oreb and Zeeb, and they proceeded to kill Oreb on the rock of Oreb, and they killed Zeeb at the wine vat of Zeeb. And they kept on pursuing Midian, and they brought the head of Oreb and that of Zeeb to Gideon in the region of the Jordan. (Judges 7:25)
- Later the men of Israel said to Gideon; Rule over us, you and your son and your grandson as well, for you have saved us out of the hand of Midian. (Judges 8:22)
- And the weight of the nose rings of gold that he had requested amounted to one thousand seven hundred gold shekels, besides the moon-shaped ornaments and the eardrops and the garments of wool dyed reddish purple that were upon the kings of Midian and besides the necklaces that were on the necks of the camels. (Judges 8:26)
- The animosity Ishmael had toward Isaac seems to have been handed down to his descendants, even to the extent of hating the God of Isaac, for the psalmist, in enumerating those that are, the very ones intensely hating, Yehowah, includes the **Ishmaelites**.
- O God, let there be no silence on your part, do not keep speechless, and do not stay quiet, O Divine One. (Psalms 83:1)
- For, look! Your very enemies are in an uproar, and the very ones intensely hating you have raised their head. (Psalms 83:2)
- For with the heart they have unitedly exchanged counsel, against you they proceeded to conclude even a covenant. (Psalms 83:5)
- The tents of Edom and the **Ishmaelites**, Moab and the Hagrites. (Psalms 83:6)
- There were, however, evidently exceptions. Under the organizational arrangement instituted by David, Obil, who is referred to as an **Ishmaelite**, had supervision over the camels of the king.
- And over the camels there was Obil the **Ishmaelite**, and over the she-asses there was Jehdeiah the Meronothite. (1 Chronicles

**27:30)**

- **And over the flocks there was Jaziz the Hagrite. All these were the chiefs of the goods that belonged to King David. (1 Chronicles 27:31)**
- **Muhammad, who lived in the Seventh Century C.E, claimed to be an Ishmaelite descendant of Abraham.**