

= Keturah =

Keturah (Hebrew : קֶטֶרָה , Modern Ktura , Tiberian Qəṭər ; " Incense ") was a wife and concubine of the Biblical patriarch Abraham . According to the Book of Genesis , Abraham married Keturah after the death of his first wife , Sarah ; Abraham and Keturah had six sons .

One modern commentator on the Hebrew Bible has called Keturah " the most ignored significant person in the Torah " . Some Jewish scholars have believed Keturah to be the same person as Abraham 's concubine Hagar , but this view is not universally held .

= = Relationship of Keturah to Abraham = =

Keturah is referred to in Genesis as " another wife " of Abraham (Hebrew : קֶטֶרָה Translit . : ' iṭṭəḥ Translated : woman , wife) . In First Chronicles , she is called Abraham 's " concubine " (Hebrew : קֶטֶרָה Translit . : pilegeṭ Translated : concubine) . Eric Lyon theorizes that " it is possible that Keturah was Abraham 's ' concubine ' in the beginning , and then became his ' wife ' at a later time . "

= = Keturah and Hagar = =

There is disagreement amongst Jewish scholars as to whether Keturah was , or was not , the same person as Hagar ? the servant of Abraham 's wife Sarah , and Abraham 's concubine ? who (together with her son Ishmael) was sent away by Abraham at the insistence of Sarah .

The discussion of Genesis 25 : 1 ? 6 in the Genesis Rabbah includes statements by Rabbi Yehuda ha @-@ Nasi arguing that Hagar returned to Abraham and was renamed Keturah . Her new name (Keturah means incense in Hebrew) is said to refer to the pleasant aroma of incense ? symbolic of her having turned from misdeeds committed during her time away from Abraham . Since Keturah is referred to in First Chronicles as Abraham 's concubine (in the singular) , some scholars concluded that this was why Keturah was identified with Hagar in the Midrash and the Palestinian Targumim . An alternative interpretation of the name Keturah (based on an Aramaic root meaning " to tie " or " to adorn ") is also cited in the Genesis Rabbah to suggest that Hagar did not have sexual relations with anyone else from the time she left Abraham until her return . The theory that Keturah was Hagar was also supported by the 11th @-@ century scholar Rashi .

Biblical scholar Richard Elliott Friedman dismisses the identification of Keturah with Hagar as " an old rabbinic idea " for which " there is no basis ... in the text " , and also notes that the idea was rejected by traditional commentators such as Ibn Ezra , Ramban , and Rashbam . The Book of Jubilees also supports the conclusion that Keturah and Hagar were two different people , by stating that Abraham waited until after Hagar 's death before marrying Keturah .

= = Descendants = =

Keturah bore Abraham six sons : Zimran , Jokshan , Medan , Midian , Ishbak , and Shuah . Genesis and First Chronicles also list seven of her grandsons (Sheba , Dedan , Ephah , Ephraim , Enoch , Abida , and Eldaah) . Keturah 's sons were said to have represented the Arab tribes who lived south and east of Palestine .

According to the African writer Olaudah Equiano , the 18th @-@ century English theologian John Gill believed the African people were descended from Abraham via Keturah .

According to the Bahá 'í author John Able , Bahá 'ís consider their founder , Bahá 'u'lláh , to have been " descended doubly , from both Abraham and Sarah , and separately from Abraham and Keturah . "