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The Written Account of the Generations of Ishmael 25: 12-18



Moses edited and compiled eleven family documents in the book of **Genesis**. The major structural word for **Genesis** is *toldot*, which means **the** written **account of**, or *this is what became of these men and their descendants*. The noun is often translated *generations*, *histories* or *descendants*. After the section on the written account of the generations of Terah from **11:27** to **25:11**, we have the eighth *toldot*, **the written account of the generations of Ishmael**. **The previous toldot went from God's covenant with Abraham to God's son of promise. So what this eighth family document tells us is what became of Abraham; what became of Abraham was Ishmael, and because he was Abraham's son, God would make him into a nation also, but he was not the son of promise.**

This is the shortest *toldot* and it follows the second longest one. **Ishmael**, too, was a son of Abraham, so **ADONAI** told what became of **him** and **his** line before returning to the seed-line of Isaac and Jacob. Thus, **Ishmael's** descendants are listed before Isaac's descendants. **Ishmael** had **twelve sons** as **the LORD** had prophesied (**17:20**), and died at the age of **one hundred and thirty seven** years. **His sons** lived in the Arabian Peninsula **from Havilah** (in north-central Arabia) **to Shur** (between Beersheba and Egypt) **to the east of Jacob and his sons**. The descendants of **Ishmael** would **dwelt in the presence of all their**



brothers as **God** had prophesied (**to see link click [Ej](#) -Hagar and the Angel of the LORD**).⁴⁰²