



## Life on Earth 2: Living and dying

### Jewish Text: Gen 25:5-11

<sup>5</sup> Abraham gave all he had to Isaac.

<sup>6</sup> But to the sons of his concubines

Abraham gave gifts, while he was still living, and he sent them away from his son Isaac, eastward to the east country.

<sup>7</sup> This is the length of Abraham's life,

one hundred seventy-five years.

<sup>8</sup> Abraham breathed his last and died in

a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

<sup>10</sup> the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with his wife Sarah.

<sup>11</sup> After the death of Abraham God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

5 וַיִּתֵּן אַבְרָהָם אֶת-כָּל-אֲשֶׁר-לוֹ לְיִצְחָק:

6 וְלִבְנֵי הַפִּילִגְשִׁים אֲשֶׁר לְאַבְרָהָם נָתַן אַבְרָהָם מִתְּנַת וַיִּשְׁלַחם מֵעַל יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ בְּעוֹדָנוּ חַי קְדָמָה אֶל-אֶרֶץ קְדָם:

7 וְאֵלֶּה יְמֵי שְׁנֵי-חַיֵּי אַבְרָהָם אֲשֶׁר-חַי מֵאֵת שָׁנָה וְשִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה וְחֲמֵשׁ שָׁנִים:

8 וַיָּגוּעַ וַיָּמָת אַבְרָהָם בְּשִׁיבָה טוֹבָה זָקֵן וְשָׁבַע וַיֵּאָסֶף אֶל-עַמּוּיוֹ:

9 וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ יִצְחָק וַיִּשְׁמַעֵאל בְּנֵיו אֶל-מְעַרַת הַמַּכְפֵּלָה אֶל-שָׂדֵה עֶפְרָן בְּנֶ-צֶחֶר הַחֲתָי אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי מְמָרָא:

10 הַשָּׂדֵה אֲשֶׁר-קָנָה אַבְרָהָם מֵאֵת בְּנֵי-חֵת שָׁמָּה קָבַר אַבְרָהָם וְשָׂרָה אִשְׁתּוֹ:

11 וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי מוֹת אַבְרָהָם וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים אֶת-יִצְחָק בְּנוֹ וַיָּשָׁב יִצְחָק עַם-בְּאֵר לַחַי רֹאִי: ס

These verses come from the first book in the Bible, Genesis, and are the final episode in the story of the patriarch Abraham, and his wife Sarah. Earlier in Genesis, God has promised to Abraham that he will make of him a great nation and that "all the families of the earth shall bless themselves by you." (Gen 12:3) Sarah and Abraham are childless, even though God promises them a child, so Abraham takes matters into his own hands and has a son, Ishmael, through his concubine Hagar. Eventually, in their old age, Abraham's son, Isaac, is born to Sarah, his wife.





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### Christian Text:

### Philippians 1:20-26

<sup>20</sup> It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.

<sup>22</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.

<sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;

<sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

<sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,

<sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>20</sup> κατὰ τὴν ἀποκαραδοκίαν καὶ ἐλπίδα μου, ὅτι ἐν οὐδενὶ αἰσχυνθήσομαι, ἀλλ' ἐν πάσῃ παρρησίᾳ, ὡς πάντοτε, καὶ νῦν μεγαλυνθήσεται Χριστὸς ἐν τῷ σώματί μου, εἴτε διὰ ζωῆς εἴτε διὰ θανάτου.

<sup>21</sup> ἐμοὶ γὰρ τὸ ζῆν, Χριστός· καὶ τὸ ἀποθανεῖν, κέρδος.

<sup>22</sup> εἰ δὲ τὸ ζῆν ἐν σαρκί, τοῦτό μοι καρπὸς ἔργου· καὶ τί αἰρήσομαι οὐ γνωρίζω.

<sup>23</sup> συνέχομαι γὰρ ἐκ τῶν δύο, τὴν ἐπιθυμίαν ἔχων εἰς τὸ ἀναλῦσαι καὶ σὺν Χριστῷ εἶναι, πολλῶ μᾶλλον κρεῖσσον·

<sup>24</sup> τὸ δὲ ἐπιμένειν ἐν τῇ σαρκὶ ἀναγκαιότερον δι' ὑμᾶς.

<sup>25</sup> καὶ τοῦτο πεποιθὼς οἶδα ὅτι μενῶ, καὶ συμπαραμένῶ πᾶσιν ὑμῖν εἰς τὴν ὑμῶν προκοπὴν καὶ χαρὰν τῆς πίστεως,

<sup>26</sup> ἵνα τὸ καύχημα ὑμῶν περισσεύῃ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ἐν ἐμοί, διὰ τῆς ἐμῆς παρουσίας πάλιν πρὸς ὑμᾶς.

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Notes: These verses are from a letter written by the apostle Paul to the newly formed church in the town of Philippi in Eastern Macedonia. Paul is writing in about 62AD from Rome, where he has been put under house arrest and is awaiting trial. In his letter he urges the Christians in Philippi not to fear danger or persecution but to be bold in proclaiming the message of their new faith in Christ.





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**Muslim text:  
The Forgiver  
40: 67-8**

67 It is He who created you from dust, then from a drop of fluid, then from a tiny, clinging form, then He brought you forth as infants, then He allowed you to reach maturity, then He let you grow old— though some of you die sooner— and reach your appointed term so that you may reflect. 68 It is He who gives life and death, and when He ordains a thing, He says only 'Be' and it is.

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ ثُمَّ  
مِنْ عَلَقَةٍ ثُمَّ يُخْرِجُكُمْ طِفْلًا ثُمَّ لِتَبْلُغُوا  
أَسْدَكُمْ ثُمَّ لَتَكُونُوا أَسْيُوخًا وَمِنْكُمْ مَن  
يُتَوَفَّىٰ مِنْ قَبْلٍ وَلِنَبْلُغُوا أَجَلًا مُّسَمًّى  
وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ (٦٧) هُوَ الَّذِي يُحْيِي  
وَيُمِيتُ فَإِذَا قَضَىٰ أَمْرًا فَإِنَّمَا يَقُولُ لَهُ كُنْ  
فَيَكُونُ (٦٨)

English translation: M.A.S. Abdel Haleem

Notes: This passage is taken from a Meccan chapter of the Qur'an, which takes its name from the third verse where God is described as the 'Forgiver of sins and Acceptor of repentance'. God's ability to create is a common theme in the Qur'an, and these verses are of several which cite the stages of gestation and life as evidence of God's power.

