

Genesis Chapter 21

V: 1 Just as God said!

Joshua's testimony at the end of his life:

Joshua 23:14 “Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them failed.”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

V: 2-3 For Sarah conceived and bore a son – just as God said she would.

Genesis 17:19 “Then God said: No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his descendants after him.”

Matthew 24:35 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will by no means pass away.”

- Sarah conceived in her old age - a blessing and a trial at the same time:

This is spoken of in the “hall of faith.”

Hebrews 11:11 “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”

- In obedience to the Lord’s command they name their child **Isaac = Laughter.**

Romans 4:17-22 “¹⁷(as it is written, I have made you a father of many nations) in the presence of Him whom he believed – God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; ¹⁸who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, so shall your descendants be. ¹⁹And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²²And therefore it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

- God's appointed child at God's appointed time.
- The child of promise born in the land of promise, at the time of promise.
- Just like Jesus.

Galatians 4:4-5 “⁴But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”

V: 4 Abraham is obedient, keeping the covenant, and circumcises Isaac on the eighth day.

- 8th day = new beginning.
- 8th day is also when the blood clotting agents in a new born baby's body develops, and in fact are at their peak performance.
- Jesus (Greek) = 888 (Yeshua, Hebrew = 386)

John 14:23 “... if anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”

V: 5-7 Abraham is 100 years old, Sarah is 90 years old – both well past child bearing years.

- Isaac is the product of God's blessing in their lives.
- Ishmael was born in the normal way.
- The son of a slave is a slave.
- Isaac is born of the Spirit, the son of a free man is free.
- Distinction between the child of the flesh and the child of the Spirit.

Galatians 4:22-23 “²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons; the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise.”

9 Parallels between the birth of Isaac and the birth of Jesus:

- 1. Both had been promised long before their respective births.**
 - Isaac when Abraham had been called out of the Ur of the Chaldees, 25 years prior.
 - Jesus – **Isaiah 7:14** “A virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son.” 700 years prior.
- 2. Both had a long wait for the fulfillment.**
- 3. The announcements seemed incredible if not impossible to the recipients:**
 - **Genesis 18:12** Sarah laughed unbelievably.
 - **Luke 1:34** Mary said how can this be? I haven't known a man.

4. Both Isaac & Jesus were named before their birth.

5. Both births occurred at exactly God's appointed time:

Genesis 21:2 "For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him."

Galatians 4:4 "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."

6. Both births were miraculous:

- Isaac came forth from two dead people.
- Jesus was born of a virgin.

7. Both sons brought joy to their fathers:

- Isaac = Laughter

Jesus:

Matthew 3:17 "And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

8. Both sons were obedient, even to the point of death.

Isaac:

Genesis 22:9 "Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood."

Speaking of Jesus:

Philippians 2:8 "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

9. Isaac's birth represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Out of death, Abraham and Sarah, came life.

Hebrews 11:11-12 "11By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude - innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore."

V: 8 Weaned: cultural milestone, the child had survived (Isaac was guaranteed this).

- The child was now moving from mother's milk to solid food.

1 Peter 2:2 “as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may
brow thereby,”

Hebrews 5:12-14 “¹²For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need
someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you
have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³For everyone who partakes only of
milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴But solid food
belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have
their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Matthew 4:4 “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds
from the mouth of God.”

V: 9-11 The child of the flesh mocking the child of the spirit.

- Ishmael is about 15-16 years old, Isaac is 2-3 years old.
- Ishmael was the only son, but is no longer the only son, in fact in a way he's
been demoted to a secondary status – typical sibling rivalry.

“*Scoffing*” / mocking (H-6711) “sahaq” - to laugh, make jokes, to mock.

Proverbs 20:11 “Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure
and right.” (or not)

- Sarah says get rid of “*her son*” – not acknowledging Abrahams relationship.
- God will later do pretty much the same thing:

Genesis 22:2 “... Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love...”

- Ishmael represents sin, the old nature, which must be set aside, put out – dealt
with, often times an unpleasant situation, but needful.

V: 12-13 Ours is the God of all comfort!

2 Corinthians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of mercies and God of all comfort.”

- Abraham is grieved – and the Lord is right there, speaking to Abraham,
comforting him.

Psalms 94:19 “In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my
soul.”

- Don't worry about Ishmael, because he is your "seed" / "offspring" – not "son" – he will be blessed.

Genesis 17:20 "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation."

"Listen to Sarah" – "For in Isaac your seed shall be called."

Galatians 4:22-31 (Turn to / read:)

- God never acknowledges Ishmael as Abraham's son.

V: 14 Abraham, trusts in the Lord – Abraham is obedient!

- No hesitation – early in the morning.

Psalms 119:60 "I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments."

- Abraham sets them off with some food and water into the desert.
- Why doesn't Abraham who is rich, set them up with camels and greater provision, servants, etc.? Faith – God said He would take care of them.

V: 15-18 The water is used up, the situation looks hopeless, they prepare to die.

- Again – ours is the God of all comfort: As they cry out, God hears Ishmael's cry.
- God speaks words of comfort – that Ishmael will be a great nation – meaning they will survive this trial.
- Ishmael & Hagar are the beneficiaries of the promise made by God to Abraham.

Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those that bless thee..."

"¹⁷The angel of God" – Elohim: power & creation

- "An angel" - a messenger who speak for God, referring to God, that He, God has heard the voice of the boy.

V: 19 God opens her eyes, leads her to living water, and they are saved.

Psalms 146:8 "The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD raises those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous."

Psalm 19:8 “The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;”

V: 20-21 God was with Ishmael, keeping His promise.

- They lived in the wilderness of Paran – near Egypt, from where Hagar gets him a wife – world.
- Can’t criticize this too much, her options are limited; she can’t go back to Abraham for a bride.

V: 22 Good witness! His neighbors are watching and taking notice. God is blessing him no matter what!

2 Corinthians 3:2-3 “²You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; ³clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.”

V: 23 Abimelech sees that God is blessing Abraham and wants to be sure that they will be on good terms.

- Abimelech possibly now understood **Genesis 12:3** much better than Israel’s neighbors today.
- Abraham is in the area of Gerar, Abimelech is possibly wary of Abraham because of his previous lies and the impact on Abimelech’s kingdom.
- You lied to me once, and almost got me killed, I want to know that it won’t happen again.

V: 24-32 Abraham & Abimelech strike a bargain, settle things between them, and part in peace.

Proverbs 16:7 “When a man’s ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”



- Beersheba:

V: 33-34 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba.

- Beer-sheba = “well of the oath” / “well of the seven” referring to the sheep.
- Tamarisk trees is a typically low shrub, but can also be a tree with white and pink flowers, common to the area.
- Abraham called the name of the Lord – “**El Elyon**” – the “**Everlasting God**.”

Psalm 39:12 “Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; do not be silent at my tears; for I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers.”

- Abraham stayed many days there in the land of the Philistines – he rested, he was at peace.
- Because his relationship with God is as it should be, he is back in the center of God’s perfect will – abiding in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:17 “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”