

Genesis - Lesson 21

Genesis Chapter 21

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Memory verses for this week: *Col 2:5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.*

Introduction: We continue our study on the book of Genesis this week as we cover the birth of the promised son, Isaac to Sarah and Abraham.

I. The Birth of Isaac--the Promise Fulfilled

Gen 21:1 *And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.*

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

If anyone ever has had a time to question God, I suggest you look to this chapter to think that over. At the advanced age of 100, Abraham becomes a father of the promised seed. Isaac is born at the set time ordained of the Lord.

God can not lie. God always keeps His word. See the words in verse 1: ". . . as he said . . . as he had spoken." God always works on schedule. v. 2 "... at the set time". This schedule may not be the one we want in the flesh, but God is never ahead nor behind the time appointed.

Gen 21:3 *And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.*

Gen 21:4 *And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.*

Gen 21:5 *And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.*

Verse 3 gives us the record of the obedience of Abraham. He obeyed God in naming Isaac. Just like Zacharias was commanded of God to name his son John, Abraham had been given instructions as to what his son's name was to be.

Gen 17:19 *And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.*

Not only did he name him correctly, but he also obeyed God in circumcising Isaac.

Gen 17:9 *And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou,*

and thy seed after thee in their generations.

Gen 17:10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

Gen 17:11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Gen 17:12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

Abraham obediently served God in his old age. It is great to start strong, it is even greater to finish strong. Some did like Moses and Joshua, others like Solomon fell away from their faith in God in their latter years.

Gen 21:6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

Gen 21:7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age.

Gen 21:8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.

Verse 4 shows us the rejoicing of Sarah. Now she is happy and Sarah's laugh is that of faith and rejoicing. Earlier, we remember her laugh of unbelief in Gen. 18:12. The word Isaac means laughter. While initially she may have doubted the Lord, she was counted faithful and has a testimony of faith over in the book of faith, Hebrews Chapter 11.

Heb 11:11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Verse 8 gives us the record of Isaac being weaned. According to history, a feast was in order on such an occasion.

II. The Bondwoman and her Son

Gen 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

Gen 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.

Sarah became jealous for her son. She saw Ishmael mocking and persecuting Isaac. This was not mere childish mocking, but real persecution. This is clarified in Galatians chapter 4.

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Gal 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

Gal 4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

Isaac would have been from 1 to 3 years old, while Ishmael was 15 to 17 years old. Her demand was according to the will of God as we saw in verse 30 of Gal. 4 and also in verse 12 of our text.

III. Abraham Grieves for Ishmael

Gen 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

Gen 21:12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Gen 21:13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.

Abraham was grieved because he loved Ishmael. This was truly his son, even though through Sarah's handmaid. But God did not leave Abraham to make all the decisions about the situation, but God instructs Abraham. The whole decision here is based on separation. Ishmael had no spiritual relationship to Isaac. God reassures Abraham of Ishmael's future.

Gen 21:14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

Gen 21:15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.

Gen 21:16 And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept.

Gen 21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.

Gen 21:18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.

Gen 21:19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.

Gen 21:20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

Gen 21:21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.

Because of what God said, the bondwoman and her son were cast out. Abraham gave them temporary provisions as it states in verse 14. But they had very little, and they were effectively destitute. But God had not forgotten Hagar or Ishmael, and His provision is revealed beginning in verse 17 when the angel calls out to Hagar from heaven. God continued to be with the boy and he prospered. There are several

spiritual lessons to be gained from all of this.

Gal 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,

Gal 4:20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

Gal 4:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

Gal 4:22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

Gal 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.

Gal 4:24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.

Gal 4:25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Gal 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Gal 4:27 For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

Gal 4:29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

Gal 4:30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

Gal 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

Spiritual Lessons:

- a. Hagar typifies Jerusalem who is now in bondage with her children. Gal 4:25
- b. Hagar wandered in the wilderness Abraham's natural seed are wanderers.
- c. The nation of Israel today is now blind as Hagar, and not seeing the well. God has provided living water for all who will come, but the Jews are still awaiting for the Messiah to appear.

Rom 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Rom 11:27 *For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.*

Rom 11:28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

Rom 11:29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Not until the natural seed have their eyes opened, will they see the water of life.

Isa 12:1 *And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast*

angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.
Isa 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD
JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.
Isa 12:3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.
Isa 12:4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare
his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.
Isa 12:5 Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all
the earth.
Isa 12:6 Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of
Israel in the midst of thee.

IV. The Covenant between Abraham and Abimelech

Gen 21:22 And it came to pass at that time, that Abimelech and Phichol the chief
captain of his host spake unto Abraham, saying, God is with thee in all that thou
doest:
Gen 21:23 Now therefore swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely
with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son: but according to the kindness
that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me, and to the land wherein thou hast
sojourned.
Gen 21:24 And Abraham said, I will swear.
Gen 21:25 And Abraham reproved Abimelech because of a well of water, which
Abimelech's servants had violently taken away.
Gen 21:26 And Abimelech said, I wot not who hath done this thing: neither didst thou
tell me, neither yet heard I of it, but to day.

Abimelech comes before Abraham. He had observed how God was with him in all that he did. He pleads for a covenant and Abraham agrees in verse 24. The covenant had to be based upon truth.

Gen 21:27 And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them unto Abimelech; and
both of them made a covenant.
Gen 21:28 And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves.
Gen 21:29 And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What mean these seven ewe lambs
which thou hast set by themselves?
Gen 21:30 And he said, For these seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that
they may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well.
Gen 21:31 Wherefore he called that place Beersheba; because there they sware both of
them.
Gen 21:32 Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba: then Abimelech rose up, and
Phichol the chief captain of his host, and they returned into the land of the Philistines.

Abraham gives sheep and oxen to Abimelech, and they made a covenant between them. He explains the seven ewe lambs and tells Abimelech that they were a witness that he had dug a well and they called the place Beersheba. After making the covenant, Abimelech and Phichol, his chief captain, returned to the land of the Philistines.

Gen 21:33 And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name

of the LORD, the everlasting God.
Gen 21:34 And Abraham sojourned in the Philistines' land many days.

At this time, Abraham the sojourner, plants a grove of trees and calls on the name of the Lord. Verse 34 says he stayed in the land many days.

V. Some Typification Lessons to Think Upon.

A. The Birth Of Isaac Foreshadows The Birth Of Christ.

1. Isaac the promised seed. Gen. 17:16. So was Christ. Isa. 7:14

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

2. There was a long interval between first promise and the fulfillment.

Gen 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Gen 21:5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.

Same with Christ.

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Hundreds of years went by before the fulfillment of Christ coming in the New Testament.

3. Isaac named before his birth.

Gen 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

So was Christ.

Mat 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Mat 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS:

for he shall save his people from their sins.

4. Isaac born at God's appointed time.

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

So was Christ.

Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

***Gal 4:5** To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

5. Isaac's birth was miraculous.

Rom 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

So was Christ's. He was born of a virgin, the one and only such birth.

B. Isaac Also Typifies Regeneration.

1. The natural man is dead in trespasses and sins. It was out of death Isaac was brought forth.

***Eph 2:1** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

***Rom 5:6** For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the the ungodly.*

2. God performed a miracle in the birth of Isaac. So it is also with regeneration.

3. The birth of Isaac brought about conflict in the house of Abraham. When we are saved, it arouses the opposition of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

4. The birth of Isaac revealed the true character of Ishmael. The new birth reveals the true character of the natural man.

5. Isaac grew and was weaned. As newborn babes we are to desire the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow.

***1Pe 2:2** As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did Abraham name his son by Sarah?

Isaac

2. Why did he call his son by the particular name?

God had commanded him to be so named.

3. What does his name mean?

Laughter

4. What caused Sarah to be jealous for her son?

Ishmael provoked Isaac.

5. About how many years older was Ishmael than Isaac?

14 years older

6. What was the result of Ishmael mocking Isaac?

Hagar and Ishmael were cast out of the home.

7. What does Hagar typify?

Hagar typifies Jerusalem who is now in bondage with her children

8. How does Hagar compare with Israel?

They are still in bondage to sin as they look for the coming of the Messiah.

9. What does the well of water in the wilderness typify?

Salvation available through the water of life, Jesus Christ.

10. What was the significant thing that Abimelech noticed about Abraham?

God blessed him and was with him in all things he did.

11. Give some typical lessons that can be seen in Isaac?

All of the typifications listed above. The promise coming much later than first promised like Christ. The miracle birth, etc. See section 5 above.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.