

Genesis 21:1–7 The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."

Announcements:

1. Book Club: 6/2, 6/23
2. Discipleship workshop: Sunday, June 6th right after church.

Genesis 20:1-7 | Isaac is Born

There is a big difference between being under contract and closing. There is a big difference between booking the flight to Italy and drinking the wine. There is a big difference between reading about Christianity and becoming a Christian. Big difference between knowing your release date and getting out, big difference between knowing your graduation date and receiving a diploma.

Today we're talking about what it means when we see God fulfill his promise and what was once held just by faith is made sure by God fulfilling his promises.

1. The Promise Fulfilled

Genesis 21:1–7 The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.

The text makes clear that the birth of the child is God's doing. Three times it is reiterated, that this took place, as he had said, as the Lord promised, and at the time of which God told Abraham it would happen. The promise was fulfilled in God's time and God's way by God's plan and promise.

At the time of its fulfillment the promise looks self evident. Of course they were going to have a child what were they so worried about? But remember the story and the difficulty that they shared in trusting this particular promise of the Lord.

Right away they experienced the doubt press in on them as they were estranged in Egypt and fell into temptation. But God reaffirmed his promise. Then the promise felt fickle once again as Lot and Abraham separated from the land and Lot experienced war. Then once again they question God and Sarah laughs in his face regarding the impossibility of his promise. Then they are given the sign of the covenant. Then once again they fall into temptation

Blessings yet real.

How do we respond to God's faithfulness?

God's doing

Of course! God promised

Remember the story.

- famine
- Egypt
- Hagar
- Negal



Amidst it all

God was faithful.

→ How would I have liked to have acted if I knew the Lord was good?

in another land like Egypt. But immediately following that the promise of God for the birth of a Son was fulfilled.

What we see in the fulfillment of the promise of God is a recoloring of the entire season of doubt that they just experienced. And the sliver of faith that carried them through. Their faith is rewarded as they see in the manifest evidence of a child they can now hold, the reality of God's promises.

Here is what they now know, God is faithful. Now for my favorite Bible study question, "how would my life be different if I believed that?"

2. The Sign of the Covenant

Response of Faith

Genesis 21:3-4 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

Abraham and Sarah show a response of faith at the fulfillment of the Promise of Isaac. The promise is fulfilled but they take action to remain in the story that God is weaving. How many of us, when a prayer is finally answered, immediately remove God from the story and say, "well it would have happened anyway."

~ well it would have happened anyway.

Name: Isaac

That is not the response that Abraham and Sarah have. Instead, they name him Isaac. Precisely the name that they were instructed to give him from God in Genesis 17. Then they circumcise Isaac on the 8th day just as they were commanded by God in Genesis 17. This is to show that this child is not simply some accident of biology, but is a member of the family of the covenant. He is the answer to the covenant promises of God, and heir to those very same promises that we're given to his father Abraham.

Circumcised on 8th day
[Sign & Seal!]
God's story = hope & celebration

Isaac need not ever doubt, that God extends to him this same promise, that he will be his God and Isaac will be his people. He need only take it up by faith. That is to say he is only called to believe the promise of God.

When we see the story that God is weaving by his promises then we not only hope when they are yet to come, but celebrate when they have arrived.

3. The Wonder

Wonder

Genesis 21:6-7 And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." ⁷ And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Sarah is recognizing the wonderful symbolism of her own story of faith in the name of her child. You see when Sarah was promised the child, she laughed at

= recasting of the past → "That is what mortals misunderstand, they say of temporal suffering, 'no future bliss can make up for it' not knowing that, heaven, once attained will work backward, and turn even that agony into a glory"

Great Dance

Isaac
Laughter

the Lord because she thought it was absurd to consider that God would give a child to people in their 90s. And well that is crazy, but God responded simply by saying, "is anything too difficult for the Lord?" Yet here she stands in wonder at the child who is now theirs to hold.

The child's name Isaac, means He laughs. It has so many layers, this name is a reference to the doubt that Sarah had which is transformed into faith. The other calls to mind the joy that the new child brings into the world. And the wonder that God could provide a child for Sarah to nurse even in her old age.

Wonder &
Ours is more!

Let us wonder together, God is faithful, and he has provided us a child. Christ Jesus was born, so in the ultimate fulfillment of this promise to Abraham. Christ lived a sinless life, and died in our place. By faith in him we are counted righteous before the Lord.

Christ

Today we celebrate in wonder this ultimate faithfulness of God by responding in the obedience of faith in baptisms. Some just as Isaac are still infants today when they will be baptized, receiving the sign of the new covenant under Christ. Others are coming to Christ in faith, having been born again, taking up this promise by faith and showing the sign of the promise in their baptism.

Baptism
Sign & Seal.

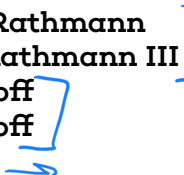
In this baptism we show that God is the one who promises and accomplishes our salvation. It is he who washes us, and transforms us, and cleanses us of our sins. It is he who sought us, even when we were running from him. And in this baptism we show this glory of Christ. The true fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise

Baptism

Sign and seal of the covenant promise of God. Here is the heart of the covenant, the immanuel principle. God with us. I will be your God and you will be my people.

Sign of cleansing, death and resurrection, faith, membership, adoption, purity.

Maeble Jean Rathmann
James Todd Rathmann III
Jack Kushniroff
Lucy Kushniroff
Mavrik Nadal



For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee. Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house. (Acts 2:39; Gen. 17:7; Acts 16:31)

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in (his) behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for (his) salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before (him) a godly example, that you will pray with and for (him), that you will teach (him) the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring (him) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Pray for blessing and Baptize the Child

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Declaration (from 17th Century Scottish Reformed Liturgy) Prayer:

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you, I called you by your name, you are mine. When the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, says the Lord, my kindness shall not depart from you, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed. Little child, for you Jesus Christ came into the world, for you he lived and showed God's love, for you, he labored and suffered; for you, he went through the agony of Gethsemane and the darkness of Calvary; for you, he cried: "It is finished!"; for you, he died and for you he triumphed over death and rose in newness of life; for you he ascended to reign at God's right hand; All this he did for you, yes, for you, little child, even though you do not yet know it. And so the word of Scripture is fulfilled, We love God, because he first loved us. Amen

Believers:

Begin with Jennifer Karns Testimony

Joshua Gray

Karis Gray

Ephraim Gray

John David Townsend

Romans 6:3-5 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

The minister may then address those making a profession in the following terms:

(All of) you being here present to make a public profession of faith, are to assent to the following declarations and promises, by which you enter into a solemn covenant with God and His Church.

- 1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?**
- 2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?**
- 3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?**
- 4. Do you promise to support the Church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?**
- 5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?**

Baptize one at a time.

Read:

Titus 3:3-5 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,