

Promise Preserved

Genesis 20-21

March 6, 2022 | Jason Finley, Lead Pastor for Equipping

BIG IDEA: Rejoice in the Lord's faithfulness to preserve his promise.

The Lord's Promise: Gen. 12:1-3, 13:16, 15:5, 16, 17:5

I. In spite of our inabilities (21:1-7)

"old...old...a hundred years old" (21:2, 7, 5)

God miraculously calls his people into existence.

1. Glory (21:1-5)

2 Corinthians 12:9 | "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

Matthew 19:26 | "But Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

2. Gladness (21:6-7)

Psalms 126:1-3 | "1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' 3 The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad."

Isaac	Jesus
Continuation of the line of the promised seed	THE Seed (Gal. 3:16)
Conception miracle	Conception a GREATER miracle (Matt. 1:18)
Birth brought joy to a few	Birth brings joy to MANY (Luke 2; Rev. 21:23)

Romans 4:16-17 | "16 That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 as it is written, 'I have made you

the father of many nations’—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.”

Romans 4:18-19 | “18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, ‘So shall your offspring be.’ 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb.”

II. In spite of our inconsistencies (20:1-18, 21:8-34)

Simul justus et peccator –Martin Luther

God mercifully preserves his peoples’ existence.

1. Our present struggles (20:1-18)

2. Our past failings (21:8-32)

Romans 9:6-9 | “6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but ‘Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.’ 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. 9 For this is what the promise said: ‘About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.’”

3. Our future legacy (21:33-34)

Psalms 90:1-2 | “1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”

Benediction

2 Corinthians 1:20 | “For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ. And so through him the ‘Amen’ is spoken by us to the glory of God.” (NIV)