

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
ENCOUNTERING CHRIST

The Miracle Child Jesus or Isaac?

Genesis 21-22

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • MARCH 22, 2026

ALL SCRIPTURES ARE PRINTED VERBATIM WITH TRANSLATIONS NOTED • CHAIR BIBLE PAGE # 14-15 (OT SECTION)

IN SOME PLACES, GOD'S WORD IS UNDERLINED WITH DOTS WITH PASTOR JOE'S COMMENTARY IN THE BRACKETED, LIGHTER FACED TEXT.

A. Meet Isaac

1. Isaac is one of the three great patriarchs of Israel—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
2. The name Isaac means “He laughs.”
3. His father was Abraham, his mother was Sarah, his wife was Rebecca, and his half-brother was Ishmael.
4. God declared that His covenant would continue through Isaac, not Ishmael, in Genesis 21:12.
5. Isaac is the only patriarch whose name God never changed; he is the only patriarch who never left the land of Canaan.
6. *“Isaac is the miracle child of Abraham and Sarah; the child of promise through whom God continued His covenant with Israel; and the foreshadowing of Christ in his near sacrifice on Mt. Moriah.”* - Wiersbe

B. Isaac: The Foreshadow of Christ

1. Like Christ, Isaac Was Born by Divine Intervention, Not Human Ability.

Genesis 21:1-3, NLT - ¹ The LORD kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. ² She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would. ³ And Abraham named their son Isaac.

2. Like Christ, Isaac Carried the Wood of His Own Sacrifice Up the Mountain.

Genesis 22:6-7, NLT - ⁶ So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, ⁷ Isaac turned to Abraham and said, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “We have the fire and the wood,” the boy said, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?”

3. Like Christ, Isaac's Life (and Ours) Was Saved Through a God-Provided Substitute.

Genesis 22:10-13, NLT - ¹⁰ And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ At that moment the angel [Heb. מַלְאָךְ (*mal-ak*); we get our concept of a deputy from this word. “The mouthpiece of God”(ATR)] of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!” ¹² “Don't lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.” ¹³ Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

Galatians 4:29-31, NLT - ²⁹ But you are now being persecuted by those who want you to keep the law, just as Ishmael, the child born by human effort, persecuted Isaac, the child born by the power of the Spirit....

4. Like Christ, Isaac Became the Covenant-Bearer Through Whom God's Promise Continued.

Genesis 21:1, NLT - ¹ The LORD kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised.

C. Life Application

Isaac foreshadows Christ: a miraculous birth, carrying the wood, being spared by a substitution, and chosen to carry God's promise forward.

1. God keeps His word.
2. God's timing is perfect.
3. God's power is unlimited.

BONUS: *The lesson from the life of Ishmael.*