







THE STUDY OF

# GENESIS

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED  
THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH."



# Laughter and Listening

Genesis 21:1-34



# Big Picture

- Redeemer/Seed Hunt Gen. 3:15;  
12:1-3
- Past promises point to future faithfulness, different times and the same Lord.



# Genesis 21

1. Isaac's (laughter) Anticipated Arrival  
(21:1-7)
2. Hagar and Ishmael's Departure  
(21:8-21)
3. Abraham and Abimelek's Agreement  
(21:22-34)

**v.1 The Lord Visited as He had said...**

**Faithful** - God's grace and goodness guides our hearts to repentance — **Rom. 2:4**

**As He said** (**Gen. 17:21; 18:10**) faithful to His promises (**Heb.11:11-12**)

**He visits/cares** with/for you (**1 Pet. 5:7**)



## v.2-7 Laughter Arrives

Isaac/laughter = God turned a gentle rebuke into an occasion for joy (17:17; 18:12)

Foreshadows/typology of Christ's (Seed/Redeemer) miraculous birth (Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Gal. 3:16)

1. Both were promised sons
2. had miraculous conceptions
3. came after delays
4. mothers got divine assurance (Gen. 18:13-14; Lk. 1:34, 37)
5. received names before birth
6. arrived on time (Gen. 21:2; Gal. 4:4)
7. brought joy (Gen. 21:6; Lk. 1:46 -2:11)

Heb 11:11-12 ESV 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.





## v.8-14 Celebration and Scoffing

1. A conundrum of complex consequences
2. God's promise to Hagar (16:11-12)  
parallels fulfillment (21:18-21)
3. Ishmael prophesied to be "a wild donkey of a man" whose "hand will be against everyone" (Gen 16:12)

# v.8-14 Celebration and Scoffing

1. Allegory used in Gal. 4:21-31
2. **Isaac** = Spirit/ promise/ grace
3. **Ishmael** = Flesh/law



Gal 4:21-31 ESV **21** Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? **22** For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. **23** But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.

Gal 4:21-31 ESV 24 Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. 26 But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

Gal 4:21-31 ESV 27 For it is written,  
"Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;  
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not  
in labor! For the children of the desolate  
one will be more than those of the one who  
has a husband." 28 Now you, brothers, like  
Isaac, are children of promise.



Gal 4:21-31 ESV 29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." 31 So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

## **v.15-18 Do you trust Me?**

In one sense, God was asking Abraham to trust Him and surrender Ishmael's life and future to the Lord—foreshadowing what would happen with Isaac in chapter **22**.

## v.15-21 Loyal Listening

Compare to 16 years earlier in Gen.16:7

Ishmael = God hears...

Their own resources were used up before they call out and He speaks and provides.

if only we have eyes to see (Psalm 30:11; 34:15-18; John 6:1-13; 20:11-16; 21:1-6)





## v.22-34 Uno reverse card used

### Abraham and Abimelech's Agreement

1. Almost a full reversal of the last chapter
2. Recognizing fulfillment of Genesis 12
3. Abraham rebukes Abimelech
4. Abraham gives/blesses a Abimelech

5. “**Cuts**” a **covenant** of peace/friendship,  
The covenant God made with Abraham  
(Gen. 15) was “vertical,” and Abraham  
is now modeling it with those around  
him, “horizontal.” (John 13:34-35; 1  
John 4:11-21; Eph. 5:1-2:1 Thess. 3:12)  
(**Love God, Love Others**: Matt. 22:37-40;  
Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10:27)





# Take aways

1. God is faithful, loyal, loving, and gracious to us. Despite our failures, He will work all things for our good and His glory.
2. He desires that we walk in the spirit and make no provision for the flesh.

3. He hears and sees the outcast and downtrodden. He remains present, revealing His provision.

4. He is calling us to model the love/relationship He has shown us to the world around us through gospel-tangible-loving actions.



## Resources/ bibliography:

1. 1. Sailhamer, John H.. NIV Bible Study Commentary (p. 27). (Function). Kindle Edition.
2. 2. David Guzik, Genesis, David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible (Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik, 2013), Ge 21:22–24.
3. 3. Warren W. Wiersbe, Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 21:1-34.
4. 4. <https://www.preceptaustin.org/genesis-21-commentary>
5. 5. <https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Isaac.html>
6. 6. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Ishmael-in-the-Bible.html>
7. 7. <https://www.gotquestions.org/birthright-Bible.html>



# Beersheba

1. Beersheba remains significant in Israel's history and is an important modern city
2. Isaac redug this well and built an altar (Genesis 26:23-33).
3. Jacob stopped here when leaving the promised land (Genesis 28:10-15, 46:1-7).

# Beersheba

4. Became territory of Simeon and Judah (Joshua 15:28, 19:2).
5. Samuel's sons judged here (I Samuel 8:2).
6. King Saul fortified it against the Amalekites (I Samuel 14:48, 15:2-9).
7. Elijah found refuge here (I Kings 19:3).

# Beersheba

8. Amos mentioned it regarding idolatry (Amos 5:5; 8:14).
9. The phrase from Dan to Beersheba became proverbial for the entire land of Israel, north to south. Examples: Judges 20:1, 1 Samuel 3:20, 2 Samuel 3:10, 1 Kings 4:25.

# Abraham's Chronology:

**Age 75** (Gen. 12:1-5; 13:16) (Sarai = 65).

- Father a great nation (the Jews)
- Possess a specific land
- Be blessed above all nations
- Through them, all nations would be blessed
- Gospel to Abraham (Gal. 3:8)



**Land Covenant** - “unconditional”  
geographical boundaries (Gen. 12:7;  
13:14-15; 15:18-21), temporary exile as  
a “conditional” part of the covenant  
(Deut. 30:1-10)

**Age 86** (Gen. 16:16) Abe and Hagar had  
Ishmael,

**Age 99** (Gen. 17:1, 17:17) changed his name to Abraham, reiterated the covenant and added that Kings would come from his line, and circumcision as a sign

**Age 100** (Gen. 21:5) Abraham fathers Isaac with Sarah

**Gen. 22** Gospel type, God speaks and swore He would fulfill these promises by Himself, 1st Love and Lamb

**Age 137** (**Gen. 23:1**) Abraham's wife Sarah dies

**Age 140** (**Gen. 25:20**) Abraham's son Isaac marries Rebekah

**Age 175** (**Gen. 25:7**)<sup>35</sup> Abraham dies