

# GENESIS

## Genesis 20-22 | "The Birth & Offering of Isaac"

### I. THE ABIMELECH INCIDENT (20)

### II. THE BIRTH OF ISAAC (21)

#### ISAAC IS BORN (v. 1-8)

##### A. (v. 1)

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

- a. Cf. [Genesis 17:19-21](#); [18:14](#) - God had promised Abraham that through Sarah would his seed be called. Sarah was a 90 year-old woman that had gone through menopause, and Abraham was an 100 year-old impotent, elderly man (cf. [Romans 4:19](#)).
  - 1) **NOTE:** Sarah's initial response was to laugh at the promise of God in unbelief! ([Gen. 18:12-15](#))
  - 2) **KEY:** God always does what He says! He keeps His promises!
    - a) In modern times, we've seen the Lord fulfill another promise in the restoration of the Land of Israel before they would gather back in their Land in 1948.
      - i. Cf. [Ezekiel 36:36](#) - *"Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it."*

##### B. (v. 2)

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

- a. "Sarah conceived"
  - 1) Cf. [Hebrews 11:11-12](#) - *"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of*

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*a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable."*

- a) Sarah must have taken the words of the Angel of the LORD to heart and believed! (18:14)
- 2) **NOTE:** Abraham and Sarah waited between 25–50 years for God’s promise to be fulfilled!
  - a) **Q** = How many of you have waited for 25-50 years for God’s promise?...
    - i. Sometimes we pray for something, and if it doesn’t happen right away, we figure that God must not be in it.
    - ii. Cf. **Psalm 37:4** - "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."
  - b. "at the set time"
    - 1) There is with God a *set time* for all things. God has a purpose and a plan for your life. But, everything is in God’s timing, not *our* timing!
      - a) God deals with the ETERNAL and so He has all kinds of patience in waiting for that *set time*.
      - b) We deal with the TEMPORAL, so we have a hard time waiting for God’s *set time*. I so often want to speed up God’s clock!
        - i. Cf. **Genesis 16** - Abraham and Sarah were impatient for God’s plan to be accomplished, so they moved ahead of God with their own plans.

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- 2) **Q** = How long was it before the Messiah was finally born?... Centuries! Millenia!
    - a) From the time that Isaiah the prophet said that the Messiah would be born of a virgin (**Isaiah 7:14**), it was 700 more years until that promise was fulfilled!
    - b) Cf. **Galatians 4:4** - "*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*"
  - 3) **KEY:** We need to learn PATIENCE!
    - a) This is why God will allow trials into our lives - because tribulation works *patience!*
      - i. Cf. **Romans 5:3-5** - "*And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*"
    - b) We need to learn to just TRUST GOD and WAIT ON HIM!
      - i. Cf. **Psalms 27:14** - "*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*"
  - 4) **KEY:** God is so interested in teaching you patience that He is very patient to let you go through enough trials that you might learn to be patience and wait upon Him!
  - 5) **KEY:** There is not one person here that is not being tried in patience!
- c. "in his old age"
- 1) **Q** = Can you imagine what it was like at the birth?... There's Abraham at 100 years old, and Sarah says with an elderly voice, "Don't drop him Abraham!"

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### C. (v. 3)

1. **"And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac."**

a. "Isaac" - Heb. "Laughter"

- 1) I picture them with tears and a flood of joy in their hearts, that they were probably *laughing* when he was born!

### D. (v. 6)

1. **"And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me."**

a. "God hath made me to laugh"

- 1) Before, Sarah's laugh was *within herself* ([Gen. 18:12-15](#)), and it was the laugh of unbelief. Now, God has made her laugh, and it has turned to faith and joy!
- 2) **KEY:** Isaac's name was a perpetual reminder to Sarah about how God can turn our unbelief into faith!

## THE EXPULSION OF HAGAR AND ISHMAEL (v. 9-21)

### E. (v. 9)

1. **"And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking."**

a. According to the Biblical timeline, Isaac would have weaned at 5 years old (which was customary in those days), thus Ishmael would have been 19 years old at this time.

- 1) Here, the 19 year-old brother is mocking the 5 year-old brother!

a) No doubt there was a jealousy of Isaac by Ishmael. For 14 years, Ishmael was an only child and his

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father's boy. But then to hear that God had a special plan for his younger half-brother, he began to treat little Isaac horribly.

- b. "mocking" - Heb. "laughing at; making sport; jesting"
  - 1) This is a negative play on words with the name Isaac ("Laughter"). Ishmael's laughter was not of joy, but of *mocking*! He was not laughing *with* Isaac, but laughing *at* Laughter, Isaac!
    - a) You could say that Ishmael was "*isaacing*" Isaac!
    - b) Cf. [Galatians 4:29](#) - The Apostle Paul said that Ishmael "*persecuted*" or "*harassed*" Isaac! The word means "*to pursue with hostility.*"
  - 2) **NOTE:** This began the clock of the 400 years of *affliction* for Abraham's descendants in a land that's not theirs ([Gen. 15:13](#)), including Canaan, Mesopotamia, and eventually Egypt, which the Lord had told Abraham 30 years earlier ([Galatians 3:17](#)).<sup>1</sup>

### F. (v. 10)

1. **"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."**

- a. Cf. [Galatians 4:21-31](#) - Paul the Apostle used this passage in Genesis to teach a spiritual lesson that Law and Grace cannot both coexist as ways of salvation!

## THE COVENANT OF BEERSHEBA (v. 22-34)

### G. (v. 3)

1. "

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<sup>1</sup> See my teaching notes from Genesis 15 for more details.

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a.

### III. THE OFFERING OF ISAAC (22)

#### A. (v. 2)

1. **"And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of."**

a. *"thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest"*

1) This is the FIRST MENTION of the word "love" in the Bible, and it really is the theme of the Bible.

a) Not the love of a mother for her child, though that is an extremely deep love.

b) Nor is it the love of a husband for his wife.

c) This is the love of a father for his son.

2) **NOTE:** It is interesting when you look at the first mention of the word love in the New Testament, especially the Gospels.

a) Cf. **Matthew 3:16-17** - When Jesus came out of the water at His baptism, *"the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**"*

b) Cf. **Mark 1:11** - Again at Jesus' baptism, *"And there came a voice from heaven, saying, **Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**"*

c) Cf. **Luke 3:22** - Again at His baptism, *"And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, **Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.**"*

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- d) Cf. **John 3:16** - "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*"
- e) Cf. **John 3:35; 5:20; 15:9; 17:23, 26** - Jesus often said, "*The Father loves Me.*"

### b. "thine only son"

- 1) God only recognized Isaac as Abraham's son.
  - a) It is interesting to me that God does not even recognize the work of the flesh.
    - i. That's a bummer when you realize the things that you have done in the flesh to help God out.
    - ii. On the other hand, it's comforting because you realize that God will not hold those things against you. I'm glad that He doesn't recognize the works of my flesh.

## B. (v. 3)

### 1. **"And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him."**

- a. The word "and" is used repeated (7x), which is a figure of speech in Hebrew grammar called a *Polysyndeton*.<sup>2</sup>
  - 1) In the Hebrew, this speaks of a continued, deliberate, immediate action!
  - a) **KEY:** Abraham was not pausing or hesitating at all! It was deliberate and continual obedience to what God had called him to do.

<sup>2</sup> Bullinger, Ethelbert William. "Commentary on Genesis 22:3". "E.W. Bullinger's Companion bible Notes". <https://www.study-light.org/commentaries/bul/genesis-22.html> 1909-1922.

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- b. **NOTE:** There are those that say that Abraham misunderstood God and that God did not ask him to offer his son, and they try to explain it away in so many ways. But when you see the full story, you realize that God *did* call him to offer his son, and yet never intended that he would fulfill the sacrifice by killing his son.

### C. (v. 4-5)

1. ***"Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you."***

- a. Abraham is telling his servants that he and Isaac will go and worship, and that both will come again!
- 1) Abraham knew that God promised him a seed through Isaac and that somehow and someday that in God's mysterious ways, it was going to happen!
- b. Abraham realized that God had a problem:
- 1) God had said, *"In Isaac shall thy seed be called."* (Gen. 21:12)
  - 2) Abraham knew that God kept His promises. (Gen. 21:1-2)
  - 3) Isaac was not yet married and did not have any children.
  - 4) In order for Isaac to have children, he's got to be alive beyond this experience, somehow, someday.
  - 5) So Abraham, believing that God would fulfill His promises, believed that God would even raise Isaac from the dead if He had to.
    - a) Cf. Hebrews 11:17-19 - *"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to*



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*raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."*

c. "the third day"

1) For 3 days, while on their journey, as he would look at his son, it was like looking at a dead man. For Isaac became dead in the mind of Abraham the moment that God said, "Take now thy son, thy only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and offer him there for a burnt offering"!

2) Every time he looked at Isaac, his heart probably was breaking because his son was dead, in his mind. Yet, in his heart, he was believing in the resurrection.

a) Cf. **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** - "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again **the third day according to the scriptures:**"

b) **Q** = Where in the O.T. Scriptures does it tell us that God would raise Jesus from the dead on the 3rd day?... This must be the passage that Paul had in mind when he wrote that.

i. Jesus may also have alluded to it to, when He said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." (**Matthew 12:39-40**)

**D. (v. 8)**

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1. **"And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together."**
  - a. **NOTE:** In the Hebrew, it does not say, "God will provide a lamb for Himself," like the NKJV says.
  - b. **KEY:** This is a prophecy where God would provide HIMSELF a Lamb for an offering.
    - 1) This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed for the sins of the world!
      - a) Cf. **John 1:29** - John the Baptist declared, "*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*"
      - b) Cf. **2 Corinthians 5:19** - "...God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,..."
      - c) Cf. **Revelation 5:5-14** - In the heavenly scene, the apostle John saw Jesus as **a Lamb that had been slain**, and we read that the Church sang a new song, saying, "*Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain** to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."*

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### E. (v. 9)

1. **"And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood."**
  - a. *"bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the alter"*
    - 1) At this point, forget about the pictures that you saw in the Sunday school pictures of Abraham walking with a little boy about 7 or 8 years old. Isaac, at this time, could be as much as 37 years old, and Abraham could be as much as 137 years old.
      - a) Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines for *many days*. ([Gen. 17:1, 17; 18:10, 14; 21:1-5, 34](#))
      - b) Isaac was 37 years old when his mother Sarah died and she was 127 years old, which is the beginning of the next chapter. ([Gen. 23:1; 25:20](#))
    - 2) **NOTE:** Isaac, at this time, could have easily overpowered his father, the old man that he was!
      - a) When Abraham tried to lay Isaac on the alter, Isaac could have said, "Hey Dad! Wait a minute! This is going too far you senile old man! I'm not going to do it!"
    - 3) **KEY:** The fact that Isaac laid down on the alter showed that he was obedient in submission to the will of his father.
      - a) **KEY:** Likewise, Jesus Christ gave His life willingly in obedience to His Father.
        - i. On the night that Jesus was arrested, Peter took a sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear, and Jesus said, *"Put up again thy sword into his place:.. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that*

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*thus it must be?" (Matt 26:52-54), and then He said, "the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11)*

- ii. Cf. **Luke 22:42** - Jesus was obedient to the will of the Father and went to the cross when He said, "*Not my will, but Thine will be done!*"
- iii. Cf. **Philippians 2:8** - Jesus "*became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*"
- iv. Cf. **John 10:17-18** - Jesus said, "*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*"

### F. (v. 14)

#### 1. "And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen."

a. "*the mount of the LORD*" = Mount Moriah

1) Mount Moriah is located in "*the land of Moriah*" (v. 2) and is the mountain on which it would be seen that the LORD would provide Himself a Lamb (v. 8, 14), and is also at Jerusalem where the Temple was built by Solomon (2 **Chron. 3:1**).

a) **KEY:** 2,000 years after Abraham offered Isaac on a wooden altar, a wooden cross was raised in the same spot on Mount Moriah, where the Beloved Son of God would die for our sins (**Isaiah 53:7-10; John 18:1; 19:41-42**)!!