

## The Birth of Isaac

<sup>21:1</sup> The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.

- “He said...He promised” – The Word of the LORD is the one thing we can count on! Everything else is questionable!
- Back in [Chapter 15](#), God promised a seed from Abram. Abram and Sarah tried to help God ([chapter 16](#)) with Hagar/Ishmael, and it resulted in 13 years of silence from God.
  - Abraham tried to bring about God’s covenant through the flesh rather than the Spirit.
    - Paul will elaborate on this in [Galatians 4:22-31](#) –<sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise.
    - Legalism is a type of living **according to the flesh**. It tries to get to God through the law, but it contradicts God's promise through grace.
    - **[QUOTE]** “**Legalism** does not mean the setting of spiritual standards; it means worshipping these standards and thinking we are spiritual because we obey them. It also means judging other believers on the basis of these standards.” Warren Wiersbe<sup>1</sup>
- What can we give God? He owns everything!
  - The one real thing we can give Him is our trust, our faith/ hope.
    - This is worth more than Gold to us
      - [1 Peter 1:7](#) – <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—**more precious than gold** that perishes though it is tested by fire—may

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1. <sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W. 1975. *Be Free: Exchange Legalism for True Spirituality: NT Commentary: Galatians*. Colorado Springs, Co: David C. Cook. Cited by David Guzik: [https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/galatians/galatians-4.cfm?a=1095001](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/galatians/galatians-4.cfm?a=1095001)

be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- This blesses/pleases Him:
  - [Psalm 35:27](#) – Let those who **delight** in **my** righteousness shout for joy and be glad and say evermore, “Great is the Lord, who **delights** in the welfare of his servant!”
  - [Colossians 1:10](#) – so as **to** walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully **pleasing to him**: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of **God**;
  - [1 Thessalonians 4:1](#) – Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought **to** walk and **to please God**, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.
  - [Hebrews 11:6](#) – And without faith it is **impossible to please** him, for whoever would draw near **to God** must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

<sup>4</sup> And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.”

<sup>7</sup> 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.”

- hundred years old – Don’t gloss over this miracle!
  - It foreshadows the incredible virgin birth of Christ
- will laugh over me – Sarah was 90! She was all but forgotten as far as childbirth
  - This could have been the most difficult, bitter, silent burden she has carried for 75 years – she couldn’t get pregnant, while everyone else did.
    - Laughter/ Isaac was a rebuke at first -([Genesis 17:17-19, 18:12-15](#))

## God Protects Hagar and Ishmael

<sup>8</sup> And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing.

- was weaned – 2-3 years old, this makes Ishmael 16-17 years old
- laughing – if it were from joy, then Sarah’s response would be different. This was mocking (KJV)

<sup>10</sup> So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.” <sup>11</sup> And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son.

- displeasing to Abraham – Why? This was his son!

<sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. <sup>13</sup> And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.”

- Whatever Sarah says – Interesting, because he listened to Sarah before and got Ishmael

<sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

- skin of water – this took trusting God.
  - The area they were going could be a death sentence
  - the child – Ishmael was 16-17, not a baby

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Let me not look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

- The death of the child

<sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup> Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

- God heard the voice of the boy
- Angel of God – Christ in the OT
- I will make him – Authority of God
- God opened her eyes – The spring was always there.

<sup>20</sup> And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

- God was with the boy – Grace of God, caring for the insignificant
- land of Egypt – Where she was from

### **A Treaty with Abimelech**

<sup>22</sup> At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, “God is with you in all that you do.” <sup>23</sup> Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned.” <sup>24</sup> And Abraham said, “I will swear.”

- Abimelech – Same guy from chapter 20? Maybe not, it could be a title.
- God is with you in all that you do – his moral high ground was nonexistent after his behavior in chapter 20. Yet, his life and reputation spoke volumes.
  - A life led by God can speak louder than our failures.
    - Abraham witnessed about God

- If the same Abimelech, he probably never forgot that dream from God ([Genesis 20:3-7](#)); if different, then perhaps he heard of it.
- In this life, our greatest blessing is that God is with us!
  - **Emanuel! Made possible by the cross!**

<sup>25</sup> When Abraham reproved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized, <sup>26</sup> Abimelech said, “I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today.” <sup>27</sup> So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a covenant.

<sup>28</sup> Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart. <sup>29</sup> And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?” <sup>30</sup> He said, “These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well.” <sup>31</sup> Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath.

- Beersheba means: a watering place or a well of underground water.

<sup>32</sup> So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines. <sup>33</sup> Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. <sup>34</sup> And Abraham sojourned many days in the land of the Philistines.

- a tamarisk tree – these trees take a long time to grow. It is a reminder of God’s promises that take time.
- called there on the name of the LORD – Abraham’s fellowship with God was strong, not weak.