

Joy to the World

Text: Genesis 21:1-7

Context - After the embarrassing episode with King Abimelech in Genesis 20, Abraham and Sarah settle in the land of Gerar and finally experience the long awaited birth of their promised son Isaac.

The Joy will come when you...

I. _____ His Provisions (vs. 1-3)

- A. Note the phrases “as he had said” and “as he had promised” and “at the time at which God had spoken to him.” Each of these phrases is a culmination of God’s promised blessing of a son.
- B. God delivers on his promises, every time. Just as he promised to provide a son for Abraham and Sarah, he promises to provide for each of us. (Matthew 6:25-26)

II. _____ Out His Precepts (vs. 3-4)

- A. God commanded Abraham to call his son “Isaac” in Genesis 17:19. He also commanded Abraham to circumcise his son in Genesis 17:10. Abraham obeys what God commanded.
- B. The Bible connects blessing and the peace of God to the one who obeys God. See Matthew 11:28-29 and James 1:25.

III. _____ His Promises (vs. 5-7)

- A. The name Isaac means “laughter.” Here we see Abraham and Sarah celebrating the birth with great joy and laughter.
- B. In the Bible, laughter is often associated with the theme of God’s faithfulness. Psalm 126:1–2 says: “When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.”