

God's Provisions in the Painful Places

Text: Genesis 21:8-21

Context - After the joyful story of Issac's birth in Genesis 21:1-7, we now see the family celebrating the child's ability to eat solid food. But the joy of celebration turns quickly into a family disaster.

To receive God's provisions in a time of pain...

I. _____ the wreckage (vs. 8-11)

- A. Abraham is believed to have received Egyptian Hagar in Genesis 12:16 when Pharaoh gave him servants for Sarah. Sarah gives Hagar to Abraham to have a child with in Genesis 16:3. After Hagar becomes pregnant, she treats Sarah with contempt (Genesis 16:5) and is sent away yet returns after a brief hiatus.
- B. Egypt has always been presented as a place of compromise in Abraham's story, warning the first readers of Genesis - The Israelite's who have departed Egypt with Moses - from returning to Egypt.

II. _____ the wisdom (vs. 12-14)

- A. Abraham hears the opinion of his wife and he is troubled. He is troubled until he hears the voice of God providing clear instructions on the matter.
- B. Jesus' blood, shed on the cross, protects believers from spiritual death and God's judgment (Romans 5:9). His sacrifice marks those who trust Him as redeemed (1 Peter 1:18-19).

III. _____ the well (vs. 15-21)

- A. Hagar and Ishmael are sent out into the desert and God preserves and helps them to survive. Hagar's eyes are opened to a well providing sufficient provision for their survival.
- B. If God would hear the cries of Hagar and Ishmael and provide them with a common grace of life and sustenance, how much more would God seek to provide for his people under his particular grace?