

Genesis 21-22 – Outline/Notes

- 21:1 – “as He said” – God does what He says...but He does it in His time. (Gen. 18:10)
- “...it is through faith and patience that we inherit the promises.” (Heb. 6:12; 10:36)
 - “did for Sarah” – True believers are enabled to do that which is above the power of human nature.
- 21:3 – “Isaac” – means “laughter.” He is a reminder of Abraham and Sarah’s laughter and unbelief.
- It is God’s covenant. God does it, and then only God gets the glory.
- 21:7 – “Sarah would nurse” – Even her milk has come in.
- 21:8 – “weaned” – Children were generally weaned at about 3 years old.
- 21:9 – “son of Hagar...scoffing” – The natural always mocks the spiritual. (Acts 2:13)
- 21:10 – “cast out this bondwoman” – Sarah seems harsh, but it is a picture of how we are to handle the Law and the flesh. (Galatians 4:30)
- 21:11 – “displeasing” – Lit. “to shake violently.” Abraham loved Ishmael. Ishmael was his son too.
- 21:12 – “listen to her” – The first time Abraham hearkened to Sarah, he shouldn’t have. But this time, when Sarah’s advice goes against the custom of the day, God tells Abraham to listen to Sarah.
- “the lad” – Ishmael is about 15 years old at this time.
 - “in Isaac your seed shall be called” – Quoted in Romans 9:7-9.
- 21:14 – “bread and a skin of water” – It is likely that God gave Abraham instructions about how to send Ishmael and Hagar away. He could have sent her away with a huge amount of resources.
- “Beersheba” – Hagar seems to get lost on the way to Egypt.
- 21:16 – “death of the boy” – She despairs of relief...though God had told her, before he was born (Gen. 16:10), that he should live to be a man, a great man.
- 21:17 – “God heard the voice” – God hears this boy and answers.
- 21:18 – “great nation” – Ishmael is the father of the Arab people. (Arabs and Jews are connected in Abraham.)
- 21:19 – “God opened her eyes” – The well was always there, but in her desert experience she couldn’t see it.
- 21:20 – “God was with the lad” – God loved and will bless Ishmael. But he is not of the line of the Messiah.
- 21:21 – “Paran” – The Sinai region.
- “Egypt” – Hagar’s homeland.
- 21:22 – “God is with you” – Also noticed of Isaac (Gen. 26:28), Jacob (Gen. 30:27), and Joseph (Gen. 39:3).
- 21:23 – “swear to me” – Abimelech and Phichol are greater in power than Abraham, but here they are begging Abraham to make a covenant with them. (Gen. 20:3; 26:26)
- 21:33 – “the Everlasting God” – Heb. “El Olam.”

- 22:1 – “after these things” – Abraham raised Isaac about 30 years. This is the child of promise.
- “tested” – (KJV “tempt”) Or “proved.” God doesn’t tempt with evil. (James 1:13-14)
 - This was not so much a test to produce faith, as it was a test to reveal faith.
- 22:2 – “your only son” – God doesn’t recognize Ishmael here. Ishmael is the work of the flesh.
- “whom you love” – This is the first mention of love in the Bible.
 - In Isaac were contained all the promises of God. Abraham had to learn the difference between trusting the promise and trusting the Promiser.
 - “Moriah” – means “foreseen of Jehovah.”
 - Chronicles identifies the area as the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. (2 Chron. 3:1)
 - “offer” – (Hebrew “alaw”) Lit. “to lift him up.”
 - Jesus said if He be lifted up, He would draw all men to Himself. (John 12:32-33)
 - “of which I shall tell you” – God is going to reveal to Abraham something about the mountain.
 - Jesus said, Abraham looked to see my day and he saw it. (John 8:56)
- 22:3 – “of which God had told him” – There was an experience of God through the night.
- The choice had been reduced to Isaac or God.
 - “and...and...” – This is a continual thought. Abraham is not stalling at any point here.
- 22:4 – “third day” – Isaac will be dead in the mind of his father for three days.
- 22:5 – “worship” – Isaac understands that there is no worship without the shedding of blood. (v. 7)
- “we will come back” – Abraham fully expects he and Isaac to return together. (Heb. 11:17-19)
 - “lad” – Lit. “young man.” Isaac might very well be near 30 years old. (Exod. 2:6 and 1 Chron. 12:28)
 - “to his young men, Stay here” – This was an incident reserved only for the father and the son.
- 22:7 – “lamb” – First mention of the word lamb.
- 22:8 – “God will provide for Himself the lamb” – God will provide Himself as the Lamb. (John 1:29)
- “the two of them went together” – Lit. “they went in agreement.”
- 22:9 – “Abraham built an altar” – Seems that Abraham builds the altar alone.
- “he bound Isaac” – Isaac, at 30 years old, could have easily overpowered his 130 year old father.
- 22:12 – “I know” – Abraham reveals his heart to the Father; but truly revealing his heart to himself.
- “that you fear God” – We must be careful that God’s gifts do not take the place of the Giver.
- 22:13 – “ram” – This is not the “lamb” mentioned in vv. 7-8.
- “instead of” – Substitutionary sacrifice is here mentioned for the first time. (Mark 10:45)
- 22:14 – “The-Lord-Will-Provide” – (Heb. “Jehovah Jireh”) Carries the idea of “the Lord who sees to it.”
- 22:17 – “bless you” – This is always the end of these types of trials.
- 22:18 – “obeyed my voice” – These are the last recorded words from God to Abraham.
- Obedience yields further blessing.
- 22:19 – “Abraham returned” – Isaac is not mentioned again until Eliezer returns from Paddan with his bride.
- 22:23 – “Bethuel” – The father of Laban and Rebekah. (Gen. 24:50)