

Genesis 21:1-21

- 1 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.
- 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.
- 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.
- 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.
- 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
- 6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."
- 7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."
- 8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast.
- 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."
- 11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.
- 12 But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."
- 13 I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring."
- 14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba.
- 15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.
- 16 Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob.
- 17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.
- 18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."
- 19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.
- 20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.
- 21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Timetable Issues with God's Faithfulness verses 1-2

Obedience of Abraham verses 3-4

Significance of Isaac's Name verses 6-7

Ishmael's Mocking verse 9

Sarah's Reaction verse 10

Abraham's Response verse 11

God's Plan verses 12-13

Send-off Problems verses 14-16

Elohim's Faithfulness verses 17-20

Genesis 21 & Galatians 4

Two Births

Two Relationships with God

ISHMAEL

Mother: Slave Woman
Natural Conception
Born According to the Flesh
Under the Covenant of the Law
Self Effort
Bondage
Curse
No Inheritance
Rebels Against God

ISAAC

Mother: Free Woman
Supernatural Conception
Born According to the Promise
Under the Covenant of Grace
Faith
Set Free
Blessing
Heir
Follows and Obeys God

IN CONFLICT

How do you want to experience God's faithfulness – as slave or FREE?

Whose child are you?

Galatians 4:21-26, 28-31

- 21 Listen to me, you who want to live under the law. Do you know what the law really says?
- 22 The Scriptures say that Abraham had two sons, one from his slave-wife and one from his freeborn wife.
- 23 The son of the slave-wife was born in a human attempt to bring about the fulfillment of God's promise. But the son of the freeborn wife was born as God's own fulfillment of his promise.
- 24 Now these two women serve as an illustration of God's two covenants. Hagar, the slave-wife, represents Mount Sinai where people first became enslaved to the law.
- 25 And now Jerusalem is just like Mount Sinai in Arabia, because she and her children live in slavery.
- 26 But Sarah, the free woman, represents the heavenly Jerusalem. And she is our mother.
- 28 And you, dear brothers and sisters, are children of the promise, just like Isaac.
- 29 And we who are born of the Holy Spirit are persecuted by those who want us to keep the law, just as Isaac, the child of promise, was persecuted by Ishmael, the son of the slave-wife.
- 30 But what do the Scriptures say about that? "Get rid of the slave and her son, for the son of the slave woman will not share the family inheritance with the free woman's son."
- 31 So, dear brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, obligated to the law. We are children of the free woman, acceptable to God because of our faith.