

The Book of Genesis

Chapter Twenty One

The Birth of Isaac - The Son of Promise

Lesson Verse: Galatians 4:29

I. Lesson Introduction

- A. It is in our nature to expect a promise to be fulfilled quickly. Whether by family, friends, or even foes.
- B. It is hard to wait, even when waiting on God.
- C. But waiting is a test of faith.
- D. And faithful Abraham's faith needed to be perfected through _____ (James 1:4).
- E. Abraham has had a son through performance (what could be done in the flesh). Now he will receive the promise of a son through faith's end.

II. Lesson

A. The Birth of Isaac (Gen 21:1-8)

1. God "_____" Sarah – enabled her to conceive
2. God went ahead and named the child, Isaac – _____
3. Isaac was circumcised the eighth day
4. Abraham was _____ years old at this time
5. Sarah was _____ years old
6. Sarah's Joy
 - a. Abraham wasn't the only one laughing
 - b. Sarah realized that GOD had MADE her to laugh – had done what it took to encourage and bless her life!
 - c. Sarah had received strength (Heb 11:11) to:
 - 1) Conceive – very complicated and draining process
 - 2) Carry the child to term – 9 long months
 - 3) Deliver the baby – go to near death
 - 4) Nourish the baby – actually have breast milk
7. Isaac's weaning
 - a. Anywhere from 2 – 5 years old
 - b. Abraham makes a feast because Isaac had now escaped the dangers of infancy, and had gone through or got over those disorders infants are exposed unto, and had his health confirmed, and there was great likelihood of his living and becoming a man, since now he could eat and digest more solid and substantial food
 - c. This was great joy to Abraham, which he expressed by making a grand and sumptuous entertainment for his family, and for his neighbours, whom he might invite upon this occasion.
 - d. This was a great occasion to brag on God's goodness to such a family as Abraham and Sarah!

B. The _____ Cast Out (Gen 21:9-16)

1. Ishmael mocked Isaac, and endangered his life (Gal 4:29)
2. Sarah demands that Ishmael and his mother be cast-out
 - a. Sarah senses something is going to go very wrong if Ishmael stays around – a woman's intuition
 - b. Ishmael was a threat to Isaac – by possibly killing him, or trying to take the inheritance in half
 - c. The thing was very grievous to Abraham – he _____ his son Ishmael
3. God confirms Sarah's sense of the situation (21:12)
 - a. Tells Abraham to _____ to Sarah this time
 - b. It is important to do what your wife says when it is right to do – no matter your own personal feelings – some women want you to only listen to them! Check everything out by the Book!
 - c. God used this situation to show HIS use of _____ over the Law (Gal 4:21-31)
4. God Promises to take care of Ishmael, _____
 - a. Everything that Abraham touches or influences gets blessed

- b. Just like Jonah
 - c. Just like it is supposed to be with Christians!!!
5. Abraham gets a few provisions together for Hagar and Ishmael – not much - Bread and water
 6. Sends them both away
 - a. Hagar is a single Mom now
 - b. Ishmael – 15-17 years old
 - c. Out into the desert of Beersheba
 - d. What a casting out! Not just “sent away” but “thrown out!”
 7. It is a DISASTER for Hagar
 - a. She has LOST everything now!
 - b. Abandoned by her mistress and her boss/husband
 - c. Out in a desert
 - d. With no real food or water
 - e. She has a starving and crying son
 - f. Then God showed up!

C. God's _____ with Hagar and Ishmael (Gen 21:17-21)

1. God hears the cry of _____ - He already had heard Hagar's cry (Gen 16:7-9)
2. Asks, “What's wrong with you Hagar?”
3. Commands, “Fear Not!”
 - a. Only the second time in Scripture that God has told someone NOT to fear
 - b. The other was to Abram in Genesis 15:1
 - c. 63 times that phrase appease in some form in Scripture!
4. “I am already at work with Ishmael - I will make of him a great nation”
5. God opened Hagar's eyes to the well nearby
 - a. God's provisions are many times already right there – at hand
 - b. Our own fears and depressions blind our eyes
 - c. Most of the times, our _____ blinds us
6. Ishmael became a bowman, an _____ – like Nimrod
7. He lived in the wilderness of Paran - a desert tract forming the north-eastern division of the peninsula of Sinai.
8. Ishmael married an Egyptian – a woman like his mother. Most unsaved men marry a girl who is like his mother

D. Abraham's Agreement with Abimelech (Gen 21:22-32)

1. Abimelech knew God was with Abraham – wanted to be on Abraham's side in any war
2. Abimelech asks for protection from Abraham through three generations
3. Abraham promises by a _____ (21:24)
4. Abraham takes the opportunity to clear the air about some problems between himself and Abimelech
 - a. A well of Abraham's was violently taken over by Abimelech's men
 - b. Abimelech didn't know it had happened
5. Abraham gave sheep and oxen as a gift to Abimelech, and made a solemn agreement, a vow, a covenant
 - a. Seven sheep were a public witness of the swearing between the two leaders of nations
 - b. They became the property of Abimelech
 - c. All to remind Abimelech that Abraham owned the well
6. The well was named Beer-sheba
 - a. It means, “_____”, or the “Well of the oath, or well of seven”
 - b. Later, when Isaac re-opened it, he gave it the same name (Gen 26:31-33)
 - c. It was a favourite place of abode of both of these patriarchs (Gen 21:33-34; 22:1,19 26:33 28:10)

E. The _____ (Gen 21:33,34)

1. Abraham planted a row of trees - Maybe for future use
2. These groves of trees became used for demonic, idolatrous worship!
3. God later commanded to NEVER plant a grove near His altars (Dt 16:21)
4. But here, at least at this point, Abraham worships only God
5. Calls God, the Everlasting God – “ _____ ”

III. Applications (A Study of Galatians 4:21-31)

- A. “Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear **THE LAW?**”
- B. “For it is written, that Abraham had **TWO SONS**, the one by a _____, the other by a _____.”
1. Both were sons of Abraham, but only ONE was the better man!
 2. “But he who was of the bondwoman was born _____;”
 - a. Hagar: Bondwoman – slave – living by the flesh, instead of by faith
 - b. Ishmael: a son, but not God’s will
 3. “but he of the freewoman was by promise.”
 - a. Sarah: Freewoman
 - b. Isaac: Obtained because of God’s promise, and faith in that promise
- C. “Which things are an allegory:” (_____)
1. “for these are the two _____;”
 - a. The Old Covenant
 - 1) Saved the Jews from _____ bondage in Egypt
 - 2) Written on tables of stone
 - 3) The Sabbath laws
 - 4) Circumcision
 - 5) Worship through an Aaronic priesthood
 - 6) 613 laws
 - 7) Reveals and exposes _____
 - 8) For the _____ – Gentiles had to become JEWS to worship right
 - 9) A covenant that was CONSTANTLY BROKEN by God’s people
 - 10) The law constantly separated people from God when they failed
 - 11) Is not the end, but will lead to the NEW Covenant, as prophesied and promised
 - 12) So in other words, this Covenant was NOT perfect, nor complete, but required a NEW Covenant to come into force
 - b. The New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34)
 - 1) Saves people from physical, emotional and spiritual bondage of SIN!
 - 2) Written on _____
 - 3) This covenant constantly restores people who have failed!
 - 4) Leads to the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ, where EVERYONE will know God’s ways
 - 5) Removes sins, and no longer remembers them!
 2. “the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.”
 - a. The one from Mt Sinai was the Law
 - b. Produces bondage – it is FOR the constraining of the flesh
 - c. “For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.”
 - d. The Old Covenant is Jerusalem NOW
 - e. And Jerusalem now is in bondage to their law, and to their flesh!
 3. “But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.”
 - a. The New Covenant is FREEING!
 - b. It is the life-giving mother of all believers!
 - c. It is from above
 - d. The New Jerusalem
 - e. Located in heaven (Hebrews 12)

- f. Proven by the Scripture in Isaiah 54:1, “For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.”
- D. “Now _____, brethren, _____, are the children of promise.”
1. WE Christians (brethren) are Jews AND Gentiles – not just Jews
 2. We have become children of God by faith in the promise, just as Isaac was through the faith of Abraham and Sarah, not through the works of the flesh!
 3. Paul is admitting that he was NOT a child of promise until he was born again!
- E. “But as then he that was born after the flesh _____ him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.”
1. Ishmael personally fought with and threatened Isaac’s life
 2. The two cannot co-exist for long!
 3. So also does the Law “persecute” the New Covenant – it does not co-exist with it
 4. The law, if left in power, will only destroy grace. It will only destroy your life
- F. “Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son:”
1. So, in the same way, a believer in the Promise of the New Covenant, can CAST AWAY, throw away, the Old Covenant, the LAW as a master, or as a means of relationship with the Father
 2. Not that it has NO work to do in this dispensation...
 3. But it cannot and must not co-exist and have the same power it used to have – it has to operate as a servant of grace, not the master of it now
- G. “for the son of the bondwoman shall NOT be heir with the son of the freewoman.”
1. Heir-ship comes by _____ the Promises of the New Covenant – not the doing of the law
 2. Even though Ishmael was a physical descendant of Abraham, that did not make it so that he was the heir
 3. Even though people, even the physical Jews, are descendants of Abraham, doesn’t mean they are fine – which is what the Pharisees believed about themselves!!!
- H. “So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman (the works of the Law), but of the free.”
1. Children of the bondwoman would be people who have been saved and kept by the works of the Law
 2. Children of the free(woman), are people who have been saved by the grace of Messiah

IV. Study Questions