

God's Promise to Abraham Advances

Introduction and Review

- Abraham yielded to sinful fear for the 2nd time when he assumed his life was in danger (Gen. 20:1-2a). *Sarah agreed to the sinful/deceptive plan.*
- King Abimelech learned to fear God & Abraham as a prophet (Gen. 20:2b-13).
- God graciously blessed Abraham even though he failed miserably in fear rather than trust God in faith (Gen. 20:14-16).
- God graciously blessed Abimelech in response to Abraham's prayer (Gen. 20:17-18; Mt. 5:43-45).
- Abraham eventually matured to face this test in faith & love rather than fear (1Jn. 4:17-18). *Trials & tests of life are designed to mature us (Jas. 1:2-4).*

I. God Keeps His Promise of a Son (Gen. 21:1-22).

A. Isaac is born (v. 1-7)

Isaac's conception & birth was a promised miracle from the Lord (v. 1-2). The name "Isaac" [he laughs] confirms the joy that the Lord brings to those who trust Him in faith (v. 3-7). His name is a reminder of their doubts & God's faithfulness. Abraham was joyful & obedient after Isaac's birth (v. 4; 17:10-12).

B. Ishmael is separated (v. 8-22)

Weaning = 2-3 years old. Ishmael's mocking revealed his hostility & rivalry toward Isaac (v. 8-9). Abraham disagreed with Sarah's suggestion of sending Hagar & Ishmael away (v. 10-11). Abraham & Sarah have both made poor judgments in the past (κρίνω vs. ἀνακρίνω). God affirmed that Sarah had made a right judgment (v. 12-13; Jn. 7:24). Sometimes right judgments are difficult to fulfill; Ishmael was a rival – "shall not be heir with my son Isaac" (v. 10). Abraham obeyed & God was faithful to Hagar & Ishmael (v. 14-22).

God is faithful to keep His promise & remove any obstacles to the fulfillment of His promise.

II. God Keeps His Promise of a Land (Gen. 21:22-34)

A. Abimelech requests a peace treaty (v. 22-26)

Even enemies recognize God's favor & blessing with a believer – "God is with you" (v. 22). Abimelech has experienced the power of Abraham's God in a dream & Abraham's power in prayer. Reasonable enemies want peace with God's people (v. 23-24; Rom. 12:18). Peace involves mutual respect for rights & privileges (v. 25-26; Pr. 16:7). Peace & water are necessary for Abraham's survival in this land of promise.

B. Abraham agrees to a peace treaty (v. 27-34)

The two made a general agreement with the blood of animals (v. 27). They make a specific agreement with a generous peace offering from Abraham (v. 28-32). Abraham culminates these events with true worship & thanksgiving to God for all His blessings (v. 33-34).

God is faithful to provide the needs of the believer & the unbeliever to co-exist in the land (Mt. 5:43-45).