

A Promise Fulfilled

Genesis 21:1-34

Introduction

I The Fulfillment Of God's Promise

- A. The Lord was **gracious** to Sarah - Ex 4:31; Jn 1:14
- B. The Lord did for Sarah what he had **promised**
 - 1. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son - Rom 4:19-21
- C. The Lord fulfilled His promise **precisely** - Gen 18:14; Gal 4:4

II The Obedience Of Abraham

- A. Abraham named his son **Isaac** - Gen 17:19
- B. Abraham circumcised Isaac on the 8th day - Gen 17:10-12
- C. Abraham was **100** years old when Isaac was born

III The Harvest Of Prayerless Decisions

- A. Abraham held a great feast for Isaac - Lk 15:11-32
- B. Sarah saw Ishmael **mocking** and said to Abraham: - Gen 16:4
 - 1. "Get rid of that slave woman and her son" - Prov 22:10
 - 2. "He will never share in Isaac's inheritance" - Gal 4:1-31
- C. Abraham was greatly **distressed** over Ishmael
 - 1. But the Lord said to Abraham:
 - a. "Do not be so distressed" - Phil 4:6-7
 - b. "**Listen** to whatever Sarah tells you" - 1 Sam 8:6-9
 - c. "Through Isaac your offspring will be **reckoned**"
 - d. "I will make Ishmael into a nation also" - Gen 17:20
- D. Abraham **sent** Hagar and Ishmael away - Ps 119:60; Lk 9:24

IV The Intervention Of God

- A. Hagar and Ishmael **wandered** in the desert of Beersheba
 - 1. Hagar and Ishmael ran out of water - Ps 63:1
 - 2. Hagar put Ishmael under a bush to **die** - 1 Kings 19:3-5
 - 3. Hagar began to sob - Eph 2:12
- B. The Lord **heard** Ishmael crying and the angel of God said:
 - 1. "What is the matter?" - Ps 34:17; Ex 3:7-8
 - 2. "Do not be **afraid**, God has heard" - Is 41:10
 - 3. "I will make him into a great nation" - Gen 17:20-21
- C. The Lord miraculously provides

- 1. God **opened** Hagar's eyes and she saw a well of water
- 2. Hagar filled the skin with water and gave her son a drink
- 3. **God** was with Ishmael as he grew up - 2 Chron 1:1

V The Treaty With the Philistines

- A. Abimelech and Phicol said to Abraham:
 - 1. "God is with you in **everything** you do" - Gen 39:2-6
 - 2. "Swear that you will not deal falsely with me" - Ps 12:6
 - 3. "Show us the same **kindness** shown to you" - Lk 6:31
- B. Abraham agreed but complained about a well - Mt 18:15ff
- C. Abraham and Abimelech made a **treaty** - Gen 17:1-27
- D. Abraham settled down in the land
 - 1. He planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba
 - 2. He **called** on the name of the Lord - Is 55:6-7
 - 3. He stayed in the land of the Philistines a long time

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Share one of your favorite promises from the Bible. What is it about this particular promise that you find so meaningful?
- 2. Most of Abraham's problems stemmed from unbelief in God's Word and a lack of prayer. How have you seen these two factors impact your life? What should you do in response?
- 3. Read Gal 4:21-31; Rom 9:6-9. According to Paul, what truth about God's covenant is illustrated by Sarah and Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael? How can you apply this truth to your own life?
- 4. Abimelech correctly stated that "God is with" Abraham. Do people recognize that "God is with you?" Why or why not?
- 5. Take time this week to meditate on some of God's promises: Gen 15:1; 1 Sam 12:22; Ps 25:9; 84:11; Is 41:10; Jer 20:11; Mt 6:33; 11:28; Jn 10:4; Rom 8:28; Phil 1:6; Heb 13:5; 1 Jn 1:9.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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