

# Genesis 21-22

January 23, 2011

## 21:1-8: Who can tell us what takes place in chapter 21 verses 1 to 8?

- Have someone tell the story.

*1 The Lord kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. 2 She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would. 3 And Abraham named their son Isaac. 4 Eight days after Isaac was born, Abraham circumcised him as God had commanded. 5 Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. 6 And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me. 7 Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse a baby? Yet I have given Abraham a son in his old age!" NLT*

## What is so profound about verses 1 and 2?

- God did *exactly* what He said He would do and He did it *exactly* when He said He would do it. See **Titus 1:2**. **2 This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began. NLT**

## What does this mean to us?

- We can always count on God to keep His Word. See **Hebrews 13:8**. **Psalm 55:12** says of God: *with whom there is no change*. **Malachi 3:6** says: *I, the Lord, do not change*.

## Is there anything that God cannot do?

- God cannot contradict His nature. See **2 Timothy 2:13**. God is truth, so He cannot lie. God is righteous, so He cannot sin (**James 1:13**).
- We can always count on God to be who He claims to be. He never fails to do what He says He will do. See **Numbers 23:19**. **19 God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through? NLT**

## 21:3: What did Isaac's name mean?

- His name means, "He laughs".

## Why did he get this name?

- When God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son in their old age, Abraham laughed (**17:15-21**). When Sarah heard that she would bear a son, she laughed (**18:9-15**). When God gave them Isaac, He laughed (**18:14**). See **Jeremiah 32:27**. **27 "I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me? NLT**

## 21:9-21: What takes place in verses 9 to 21?

- Have someone tell the story.
- Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael away

## How old was Ishmael when he mocked Isaac?

- He was at least **14**; see **16:16**.

## 21:13: What do we learn from verse 13?

- Some people get blessed because of their connection to other people. **Ishmael** would become a great nation because he was **Abraham's son**. Ishmael would reap (in part) what Abraham had sown.

**Who is someone that your life has been blessed as a result of his or her life?**

- See what you get.

**21:22-34: What takes place in verses 22 to 34?**

- Have someone tell the story.
- Abraham's Covenant with Abimelech

**21:27-30: What do we learn from verses 27 to 30?**

- Business should always be treated as business. Friends often become enemies because of misunderstandings about what was agreed upon by the two parties. Abraham pays a price for the land and makes a contract (*a covenant* – 21:32) with Abimelech.

**Is a contract *more or less* important when we are dealing with friends and family?**

- It is **MORE** important. Friends and family make assumptions that strangers would not make about the deal.

**22:1-24: Why do we believe that the story in chapter 22 is a picture of God the Father and Jesus the Son?**

- See what you get. Abraham represents God the Father and Isaac represents Jesus. Isaac is Abraham's *son, his only son*. Jesus is God's *only begotten Son* (John 1:14,18 & 3:16). God is willing to offer up His Son as a sacrifice. The Son is willing to be offered up. God provides the lamb (22:8). The son's life was given back to him; Isaac lived past the sacrifice and Jesus was raised from the dead.

**22:1-8: What takes place in verses 1 to 8?**

- Have someone tell the story.
- Abraham's Faith Tested

**How old do you think that Isaac was in this story? And why?**

- Isaac was probably a **late teen**. The Hebrew words indicate a young man just short of adulthood. He had to be big because the wood for the sacrifice was *laid* on him. It was not a small amount of wood handed to Isaac; it was a large amount of wood laid on the back of Isaac.

**How much did Abraham struggle with his decision to sacrifice Isaac? And why?**

- None at all. He did not struggle because he believed that God would do what He said He would do. God had promised to make a nation out of Isaac's children (17:15-16). Isaac had to be alive to do this. See **Romans 4:17,21**.

**What is unusual about what Abraham said in verse 5? And why did he say it the way that he did?**

- He doesn't say that they are going to sacrifice; he says they are going to **worship**. Real worship always involves **sacrifice**. If there's no sacrifice, then there's no worship. See **1 Chronicles 21:24. 24 But King David replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on buying it (threshing floor) for the full price. I will not take what is yours and give it to the Lord. I will not present burnt offerings that have cost me nothing!" NLT** Notice that Abraham also said that *we* (he and Isaac) would return even though he was going to sacrifice his son.

**22:9-19: What takes place in verses 9 to 19?**

- Have someone tell the story.

- *God tested Abraham. But God also did something for us. He taught us about Jesus Christ. And he did that very many years before Jesus came. This offering helps us to know how Jesus saves us from God's judgement. This is how God teaches us about Jesus:*

**There are six significant statements in this passage found in the following verses, what are they?**

- **22:11:** THE angel of the Lord, Jesus, was there on Mount Moriah that day.
- **22:12:** Abraham was passing a test that God was giving him. "NOW I know that you fear God."

**Do you think that we are sometimes taking tests with God that we are not aware that we are taking?**

- **Yes.** God's blessing is determined by our obedience. When we disobey God, we never know until later what it may cost us. When we obey God, we find out later how it benefits us.
- **22:13:** The lamb/ram was offered up "in the place of" Isaac. Jesus is our substitute on the cross. See [Isaiah 53:4-7](#).
- **22:14:** Abraham calls the place Jehovah-Jireh (or Yahweh-Jireh) meaning the "God who Provides". God is our provider and the source of all that we have ([Deuteronomy 8:18](#) and [James 1:17](#)).
- **22:16:** *BECAUSE* Abraham had obeyed and given to God that which was most precious to him (Isaac), he would be the "father" of God's chosen people (the Jews).
- **22:18:** In Abraham's *seed* all the nations of the world would be blessed. That seed of Abraham was Jesus who died for the sins of the whole world.

**Notice that again in [verse 18](#) that this would all happen *because* of Abraham's obedience. Three times here in [verses 12, 16, and 18](#) we are told that the blessing was a result of obedience. Most of God's promises are *if...then* promises; God will do something for us if we will do what He tells us to do.**

**Also, we learn in [verse 2 of chapter 22](#) that God led Abraham to a particular mountain in Moriah. In [2 Chronicles 3:1](#) we discover that Solomon built the Temple on Mount Moriah. It is likely that the same place where Abraham offered Isaac is the very place where Jesus hung on the cross (Golgotha, the place of the skull).**