

Genesis 21

Genesis 21.1-8

V1 – What had the three angels promised in *Genesis 17.15-17*? That within a year Sarah would have a baby

-What did God do? Remembered His promise

V2 – The result? Sarah gave birth to a son

-The promises of God are always fulfilled

V3 – What great honor did Abraham have? Naming his son (*Genesis 17.19*)

V4 – What else did Abraham do? Circumcised Isaac after the eighth day (God's commandment)

V5 – Age of Abraham at the birth of Isaac? 100 years old

V6 – Why was there laughter for Sarah? The great happiness of having a child

-Our society often views children as a bother (abortion, restrictions in housing against children, etc.)

V7 – Notice use of word “*children*” here

-Implication in qualifications of elders: One child means that we have "children"

V8 – A great feast when Isaac was weaned – (he was nursed by his mother) – big event

Genesis 21.9-21

V9 – Why would there be trouble between Sarah and Hagar? Hagar and Abraham had had a baby (Ishmael)

-Jealousy is terrible and can create much bitterness in the human heart

-Also, Ishmael had made fun of Sarah because Sarah had not had a baby (and he was making fun of Isaac)

V10 – What did Sarah demand? That Hagar be kicked out of the household

V11 – How did Abraham view Sarah's demand? He wanted to keep Hagar and Ishmael (his son)

V12 – What was the message from God? Do what Sarah tells you in this matter

-The promise was to come through Isaac

V13 – Promise of God concerning Ishmael? He will become a great nation also

V14 – What did Abraham do? Gave Hagar and Ishmael food and water and sent them out into the wilderness

V 15 – What soon happened? Water and food was gone

V 16 – Situation with Hagar? Expected to die
-She wept before God (a hopeless situation)

V 17 – Message from angel? Don't be afraid – God had heard the boy crying

V 18 – Instructions from the angel? Get up; hold the boy by his hand – great nation would come from him

V 19 – What did God furnish? Food and water

V 20 – Description of Ishmael? Lived in wilderness and became an archer

V 21 – Why would his mother get him a wife from Egypt? She was from Egypt

Lessons:

- God will be with single parents
- God will be with his people
- God cares for outcasts

Genesis 21.22-34

V 22 – Where have we seen Abimelech before? One who was going to marry Sarah (deceived)

-Abimelech's conclusion? God was with Abraham

V 23 – What kind of agreement did Abimelech want with Abraham? They would be kind to each other (sort of the "Golden Rule" of the Old Testament)

V 24 – Answer of Abraham? He agreed

V 25 – What complaint did Abraham have? Abimelech's men had captured one of Abraham's well's

-Importance of wells? Dry land; hard to dig wells

V 26 – Abimelech's reaction? Had no idea that the well had been seized

-Lesson:

-Often people hold things against us that we know nothing about (we should apologize immediately)

-What are we to do if someone has offended us? *Matthew 18.15* - go to that person in private

V 27 – Reaction of Abraham? Gave gifts to Abimelech

V 28 – 7 ewe lambs set aside from Abraham's flock

V 29 – Abimelech wanted to know what the 7 ewe lambs were for

V 30 – These lambs would be a gift that would seal the covenant (that the well belonged to Abraham.)

V 31 – **Name given to the place?** Beersheba, meaning “well of swearing” or “well of seven”

V 32 – The covenant was completed

V 33 – **What else did Abraham do?** Planted a tamarisk tree there

Lessons:

- Abraham had gained much respect for his pagan neighbors
- He had sinned against them several times unfortunately

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