

In The Beginning

The Promised Birth of Isaac

Abraham's faith at it's worst ... Gen.20

What had God just recently affirmed to Abraham? 18:10

Abraham would have a son within the year, BY SARAH.

Did Abraham and Sarah understand what the Lord was saying to them? 18:10-15

Absolutely. They both understood what HE said. The laughter was confirmation...!

And what does Abraham do, again? 20:2 Why?? vs.11

He deceives about Sarah being his wife, because he's afraid! Did he really believe God...?

Not only was Abraham unbelieving, what was he doing to Sarah? vs.2

Her purity was being threatened. And how would God's promise be fulfilled?

On top of all this, what was his action doing to Abimelech? vs.3-7

Abimelech and his whole nation were in mortal danger of God's judgment, ie death.

While Abimelech sternly rebukes Abraham (vs.8-11), how does God treat Abraham? vs.6, 14-18

No rebuke from the Lord. He's declared to be a prophet and must intercede for Abimelech

What parallel do we see for this in the NT? Rom.8:28-33

Our position as believers is fully justified. It is God, Himself, who justifies us...!

The long awaited promise is fulfilled... Gen.21:1-7

What does "Isaac" mean? What's the history of this? 17:17-19; 18:12-13

Isaac means 'laughter'. Abraham first, then Sarah, laughed at the thought of Isaac.

But now that Isaac is here, how does 'laughter' take on a new meaning? 21:6-7

Sarah is overjoyed and now her laughter is in praise, not unbelief. And so for us...

But not all the laughter was acceptable. What happens next? vs.8-11

Ishmael mocks (root of 'laughter') Isaac. This brings the obvious conflict to a head.

As Sarah demands that Hagar and Ishmael be cast out, what is God's position? 21:9-13

The Lord directs Abraham to do so, but promises that Ishmael will be blessed / Abraham.

What is the real lesson for us in this event? Gal.4:21-31

Believers are always like Isaac, children of promise, Grace. Those of law, works, cast out.

What does the struggle between Isaac and Ishmael illustrate about believers today? Gal.5:16-18

It shows the conflict between our indwelling Holy Spirit and our flesh. The flesh must go!

How does God fulfill his promise to Abraham to bless Ishmael? 21:14-21

He meets Hagar in the wilderness, feeds/protects. Ishmael then lives in the wilderness.

What is the sad commentary on Abraham from Abimelech? 21:23

He requires Abraham to swear to not deal (again) falsely with him. Testimony lost...

What do Abraham and Abimelech agree to do? 21:25-34

They agreed to live peacefully together around Abraham's well at Beersheba.
