

"You Shall Call His Name Isaac"

Genesis 17:15-21

ISAAC'S BIRTH PROMISED. v.15-18

1. A new name for Sarai. v.15-16

- From "Sarai" to "Sarah" Ref. v.5
- God promises to bless her (2 X's). **v.16** Reiteration in Heb. I will *indeed* bless her
- God promises Abraham a son by her. (I will give you = Heb. I *have given* you)
- God promises nations and royalty through her.
-and she shall become nations and kings of peoples shall come from her.

2. Abraham's response to the promised son. v.17-18

- Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself... **v.17**
-Reverence. Ref. v.3
-Laughter – Abraham laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man...?"
- Consider Ishmael... **v.18**

GOD'S COVENANT PLAN ANNOUNCED THROUGH ISAAC & HIS OFFSPRING. v.19-21

1. God reaffirmed his plan for a son from Sarah. v.19

- Call his name Isaac. Heb. "he laughs"
- God's covenant will be established through Isaac and his offspring.

2. God reaffirmed his plan for Ishmael. v.20

- God has blessed him and will multiply him greatly. Ref. 16:10
- 12 princes would be fulfilled in the record found in Genesis 25:12-18.

3. God reaffirmed his plan through Sarah. v.21

THE GOD OF THE "IMPOSSIBLE"

1. God often fulfills his Promises in ways that seem impossible.

- Isaiah 55:8-9: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- Ephesians 3:20: Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...

2. God often rescues His people out of "impossible" situations.

- The Exodus out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. Ex 14:21-29
- The sea on one side, Pharaoh & his chariots on the other...

God can turn the sea into dry land...

- 2nd Generation of Israel crossing the Jordan...
- Jesus calming the storm. Mark 4:35-41

God can turn the dry land into water...

- Isaiah 41:17-20: When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them; I the God of Israel will not forsake them. ¹⁸I will open rivers on the bare heights... I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.... that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the Lord has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.
- Isaiah 43:19: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
- Psalm 107:33, 34, 35: He turns rivers into a desert, springs of water into thirsty ground, a fruitful land into a salty waste....He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water.

3. The impossible situation in which every human being finds themselves. Ref. Romans 3:26

→ My sin

→ A Holy God