

## “Promised & Protected Son”

Genesis 21:1-21

### **THE PROMISED SON ARRIVES. v.1-8**

- 1. The LORD kept his word to Abraham and Sarah had a son. v.1-2.** Ref. Gen.12:1-3, 4; 18:9-15
- 2. Abraham obeyed God’s commands. v.3-4**
  - He called him Issac (God’s command in 17:19). **v.3**
  - He circumcised Isaac (God’s command in 17:12-13). **v.4**
- 3. There was joy in Abraham’s household and Sarah laughed. v.5-7**
  - Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born (and Sarah was 90!). **v.5**
  - Sarah recognized the LORD’s wonderful work—“God has made laughter for me.” **v.6-7**
- 4. Isaac grew and was weaned. v.8**
  - In the ancient world, a child was weaned around age 2-3. (Ishmael would be 16-17 years old.)

### **THE PROMISED SON PROTECTED. v.9-14**

- 1. Conflict arose between Ishmael and Isaac. v.9-11**
  - Sarah noticed a dangerous dynamic between Ishmael and Isaac. **v.9** Ref. Gal. 4:29
  - Sarah tells Abraham she wants Hagar and Ishmael to be separated from their family. **v.10**
  - Abraham resisted Sarah’s plan. **v.11**
- 2. Hagar and Ishmael are sent out. v.12-14**
  - God directs Abraham to listen to Sarah and send them away. **v.12**
  - God promised to make a nation of Ishmael—because he is a son of Abraham. **v.13**
  - So Abraham gave them bread and water and sent her away. **v.14**
- 3. The LORD protected Isaac, the promised son.**
  - **By releasing Hagar from slavery, God protected Isaac’s inheritance.**
  - **By removing Ishmael from Isaac, God protected Isaac’s life.** Ref. Gal. 4:29; Genesis 16:12  
*Genesis 16:12: He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone’s hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.*
  - **God protected the line of the Messiah—the One who would crush the serpent’s head.** Gen. 3:15

### **GOD’S MERCY ON HAGAR AND ISHMAEL—FOR ABRAHAM’S SAKE. v.15-21**

- 1. They ran out of water and sat down to die. v.15-16**
- 2. God heard their cry and spoke to Hagar. v.17-19**

—“The point of Hagar’s greatest despair is the time of God’s intervention.”

  - What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not... **v.17**
  - God promised to make Ishmael into a great nation. **v.18**
  - God opened her eyes to see a well of water. **v.19**
- 3. And God was with the boy... v.20-21**

→ For Abraham’s sake. v.13                      But... Note what is missing... the covenant, salvation, promise.

### **APPLICATIONS**

- 1. For Abraham... Isaac was only 2 or 3... keep Ishmael as a back-up plan? Plan B?**
- 2. For the original audience then... rely on the ‘Egyptian option’—or trust in God’s plan?**
  - God secured your inheritance in the land of Canaan. Don’t give it up!
  - Egypt (the world) is not God’s plan for you. (all kinds of food and provision—but idolatry, slavery and death)
- 3. For us today...**
  - What does the ‘Egyptian option’ look like for you?
  - This story speaks of trusting in Christ alone for salvation. (Paul tells us so in Gal. 4:21-31.)