



Reading: Genesis 21 verses 1-7

Key Thought: God always keeps his promises.

Philippians 1v6: *He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion*

Galatians 3 verse 9: *Those who rely on faith, are blessed along with Abraham – the man of faith*

Context: If you get time, read chapter 20 as well. It explains what was happening during the year before Isaac's birth. Abraham was living a nomadic lifestyle, and would take his sheep and cattle to varying suitable areas for grass and water. During this account, he was in the Negev desert in the south of the country. To protect himself (verses 11-13), he told King Abimelek that Sarah was his sister, rather than his wife. (This was a 'white' lie as Sarah was both his half-sister and his wife.) It was a foolish thing to do, and if God hadn't intervened, Abraham's inheritance and The Promise would have been jeopardised. It just reminds us that Satan will always try to thwart God's plans – but also, that God will work out his purposes in and through us despite our foolish ways. This passage reminds us that God's promises are not based on what we deserve – they are based purely on God's grace.

Content:

It must have been such a relief for Abraham and Sarah to have escaped such a tricky situation!

Once again, Sarah and Abraham's faith must have been tested, when at the ages of nearly 90 and 100, they once again tried to get pregnant. (Remember, this was not going to be an immaculate conception!) But the Lord was gracious (chapter 20 verses 1 and 2), and – as promised by the Angel from God (chapter 18 verse 10) – a son was born, and they called him Isaac, in obedience to the Lord (chapter 17 verse 19). Isaac means 'Laughter' – nothing could have been more appropriate, after all the years of waiting for that joyous day. A son for Sarah and the inheritor of the Promise given to Abraham. We can barely begin to imagine the joy and elation that they felt. A precious baby son – but not just any son, a miracle baby who would be **The Inheritor of the Promise** through whom:

Jacob would be born, later to be renamed Israel

Israel's descendants would become a great nation – God's nation

Through Moses and eventually Joshua, the people would be led into their inheritance

Through their descendants David would become King of Israel

And through the line of David Jesus would be born to become the Saviour of the whole world.

So that all who believe in Him, become sons of Abraham and inheritors of the Promise – including us!

Challenges:

Can you identify with Abraham's feelings, after years and years of disappointment, failure and waiting? Maybe God allows this so that we let Him lead us through, rather than make our own decisions – because only then, can His greater will for our lives be achieved.

- Don't get distracted by the 'Abimeleks' in your life. (Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.)
- Ask God to give you glimpses of a bigger picture. (There is always more involved than we know about.)
- Ask God to give you a promise. (He will do this as you read The Word, or through a prophecy.)
- Ask for an understanding of His purpose for your life. (Seek to live in His will.)

Because: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." Philippians 1 verse 6
We understand God's Promises when we recognise His Presence

Communicate:

Feel free to let us know if you have questions or comments about this study. Perhaps you have a word of encouragement or a need for prayer if you are struggling with any of the issues. We will gladly get back to you.