

Isaac and Ishmael
Genesis 21:8-21

Main Point:

Since you are a child of promise in Jesus Christ, cast out the threat of works-righteousness and put your confidence in Him.

1. Ishmael threatened God's promises regarding Isaac.
2. Ishmael was cast out of Abraham's family for doing so.
3. Ishmael and his threat are symbolic of a greater threat to the gospel of God's grace.
4. You need to cast this threat of works-righteousness out of your life.
5. This is because you, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Cross-References

Galatians 4:21-31 ²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar-- ²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children-- ²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, *You* who do not bear! Break forth and shout, *You* who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband." ²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac *was*, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him *who was born* according to the Spirit, even so *it is* now. ³⁰ Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free. (NKJV)