

Genesis 21:1-34

- 1 ¶ And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had spoken.**
Remember God had promised Sarah and Abraham a child at a certain time. They are just coming out of that situation with the king, God had delivered them. Sarah is 90 years old now.
- 2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.** All their married lives, Abraham and Sarah had begged for a child. In those times, being without child was a disaster. So it was nothing short of a miracle that Sarah got pregnant at age 90.
- 3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born to him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.** The name Isaac means Laughter.
- 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.** God had told Abraham that every male in his group: related, not related, bought; were to be circumcised by him at 8 days old. So Abraham did as he was told.
- 5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born to him.**
- 6 And Sarah said, God has made me to laugh, *so that all that hear will laugh with me.*** This is not the laughter of a joke; it is a laughter of gratitude. It is the first one she's had. She didn't want to be an affront to society, and the other women laughed at her and made fun of her. Everyone will be joyful and happy that this has happened to Sarah.
- 7 And she said, Who would have said to Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born *him* a son in his old age.** She makes a statement that who would have thought that as old as we are that we would have a child at this time?
- 8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the *same* day that Isaac was weaned.** In this day and time weaning of child happened between 10 months and 5 years. This was a big step in Isaac's life, and he'll start standing on his own in the way their society went. Before a child was weaned they were close to the mother's heart. Being weaned means they are getting independent.
- 9 ¶ And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born to Abraham, mocking.** Hagar's son is about 15 years old now, and he's making fun of Abraham's blood son. Notice that this is where the conflict started between these two boys and their ancestors. 3000 years later we are seeing it in the Mideast peoples. In those days if a slave bore the master a son, he was to get part of the inheritance, but they could give it up if they left voluntarily.
- 10 Wherefore she said to Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac.** Sarah sees the response from Hagar's son, and Sarah tells Abraham to get them out of here, send them away. Even though Sarah told Abraham to have a son with Hagar, now she wants them gone because of them mocking her son.
- 11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.** Abraham is torn because Ishmael is his son, too, but Sarah won't have them here. This conflict makes Abraham sad.
- 12 And God said to Abraham, Let it not be grievous in your sight because of the lad, and because of your bondwoman; in all that Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac shall your seed be called.** God comes down and tells Abraham, while he's contemplating his action on Sarah's request, God tells Abraham to listen to Sarah and do what she says. God says Isaac will be your future.
- 13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he *is* your seed.** God says He'll take care of Ishmael; He'll make Ishmael a great nation also. They hate the descendants of Isaac to this day. They are all in the Mideast today. Remember the lesson: you reap what you sow. And your descendants reap what you sow. One action has a multitude of consequences down through to the end of time, forever.

- 14 ¶ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a skin of water, and gave *it* to Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.** Abraham does exactly what God says. He sends Hagar out with provisions.
- 15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.** She's out in the desert, provisions are gone, she puts Ishmael under a bush and tells him to wait there.
- 16 And she went, and sat her down over against *him* a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against *him*, and lifted up her voice, and wept.** She couldn't bear to watch her child die, so she put him under a bush. She talked to God, crying.
- 17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, What ails you, Hagar? Fear not; for God has heard the voice of the lad where he *is*.** Evidently Ishmael is crying out to God, too.
- 18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.**
- 19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.** God lets her see a well that has good water.
- 20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.** Ishmael grew up wild and he fought his own brother. If they don't have a common enemy, they'll fight each other. Just being a great nation doesn't mean it's a good nation. This is Iran, Israel, Tel-Aviv; all those Mideast countries. Their conflicts stem from the conflict between these two boys. The Mideast nations are arguing over Jerusalem.
- 21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.** Hagar is originally from Egypt, so she went and got her son a wife from there.
- 22 ¶ And it came to pass at that time, that Abimelech and Phichol the chief captain of his host spoke to Abraham, saying, God *is* with you in all that you doest: Abimelech had become friends with Abraham, and sees that Abraham is special and that God takes care of him.**
- 23 Now therefore swear to me here by God that you wilt not deal falsely with me, nor with my son, nor with my son's son: *but* according to the kindness that I have done to you, you shall do to me, and to the land wherein you have sojourned.** Abimelech comes to Abraham and says I see what God's doing with you, and I want you to promise me that you will treat me and my family fairly. Abimelech respected Abraham and he wanted some of that blessing.
- 24 And Abraham said, I will swear.**
- 25 And Abraham reproveth Abimelech because of a well of water, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away.** Water was a very valuable commodity in those days. Some violent people had come and stolen one of Abraham's wells, and run his people off.
- 26 And Abimelech said, I don't know who has done this thing: neither did you tell me, neither yet heard I *of it*, but to day.** This is the first I've heard of this.
- 27 And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them to Abimelech; and both of them made a covenant.** This was common in those days that when you made an agreement you gave them a gift, a token that it is a binding agreement. Here we have a handshake, or a signed contract. They exchanged some animals.
- 28 And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves.**
- 29 And Abimelech said to Abraham, What *mean* these seven ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?**
- 30 And he said, For *these* seven ewe lambs shall you take of my hand, that they may be a witness to me, that I have dug this well.** Abraham says that I want you to understand that by you taking these lambs, you agree this well belongs to me.
- 31 Wherefore he called that place Beersheba; because there they swore both of them.** Beersheba means a token of a covenant, of the agreement.

- 32 Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba: then Abimelech rose up, and Phichol the chief captain of his host, and they returned into the land of the Philistines.**
- 33 ¶ And *Abraham* planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.**
- 34 And Abraham sojourned in the Philistines' land many days.** They made an agreement, they were peaceful with each other, and Abraham stayed in that land for a good while.