

“Behold therefore the Goodness and Severity of God”

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Romans 11:22

²² Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

- All of theology is connected like a train on a circular track.....not like elective subjects to be separated – tonight will touch on Hamartiology (sin), Ecclesiology (Church), Eschatology (prophesied events), Christology (Christ in Types, shadows and reality), Soteriology (salvation).
- Tonight’s study on Ishmael and his banishment from his family and how it applies to the Church and each of us individually.
- Unconditional Election: Abram from Ur in Babylonia (it pleased God) **Ephesians 1:11**¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

The Problem:

Genesis 15:1-2 Abram had No Seed (Hebrew Zera) no seed, no child, no offspring. 15 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

² And Abram said, LORD God, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

The Promise:

Genesis 15:3-6⁴ And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

⁵ And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

⁶ And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

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“The Counterfeit Offer”

Genesis 16:1-4 16 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

² And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

³ And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

⁴ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

Where do Counterfeit offers come from? Initially Satan, but then through ourselves. 1689 London Baptist Confession Sect. 6:1: - ***Satan using the subtlety of the serpent to subdue Eve, seduced Adam by her, and he, without any compulsion, willfully transgressed the law of their creation and the command given to them by eating the forbidden fruit.*** -James 1;13-15 ¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

- Sarai offers the forbidden Fruit and Abram ate of it: **Gen. 15 v.4** “And he went into Hagar and she conceived”. Sarai is immediately burdened and peace and harmony in the House is compromised. “Her mistress was despised in her eyes”.
- The Slave/Son conceived (explain) A child born to a slave parent in captivity is considered a slave. Remember, Ishmael is a step son to Sarai.
- Prophecy of Ishmael- **Gen. 16: 11-12** “He will be a wild *man (*Adam) and his hand will be against every man and every man’s hand against him”.

The Real Promise refreshed and Abrams name (“high father” changed to “Father of a Multitude”, Abraham **Genesis Read 17: 1-7**) 17 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

² And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

³ And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

⁴ As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

⁵ Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

⁶ And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Ishmael grows and is circumcised with Abram (Abraham is 99 and Ishmael 13) **Genesis 17:24-25** ²⁴ And Abraham was ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

²⁵ And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

- Isaac is born of who the True Promised Seed (Christ) would come through. **Isaac means laughter.** (Abraham and Sarah both laughed when told of Isaac to be born) Being a Child of God and a Child of the Promise is joyous and laughable. "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice"- Amazing Grace
- Isaac is weaned and Ishmael mocks him (I am guessing ages of around 18 Ishmael- Isaac -3-4) **Genesis 21:8-11-** "The child (Isaac) grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son".
- Mocking could have been deviant? **Genesis 39:14** Joseph accused of attempted rape with Potiphar's wife). Could have been disrespectful to Sarah. (Mocking in **Judges 16:25** Samson. Though blind he was granted his last wish as they were making fun of him.) Mocking was a symptom and not the disease. **2 Peter 3:3,7** "**Knowing this that in the last days there shall be mockers, walking after their own lusts**"⁷ **But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men..** Sarah could have been fearful to Sarah concerning the family estate. They are very old and Isaac would be vulnerable. Why should Ishmael share when he could have it all?) Recall (Cain and Abel, Esau, Jacob). Could have been a Mothers instinct and/or her finally blowing her cool over Hagar, Ishmael and Her Only Son, or all of the above?

Ishmael and Hagar abandoned out near a tree (**Gen.21:14-21**). God showed mercy to them even in his Severity by providing a well for them to drink from. After that we hear no more really about Ishmael until the New Testament. In summary he is last reported to live in the wilderness of Paran.

New Testament Spiritual Re-mentioning

John 8:31-44 Jesus in Constant Battle with the Pharisees (Jesus is a Type of Isaac and the Pharisees are a Type of Ishmael)...the whole Bible concerns Jesus! **(Luke 24:37)** ³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free?’”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ **And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.** ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Abraham’s Seed and Satan’s

³⁷ “I know that you are Abraham’s descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. ³⁸ I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.”

³⁹ They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.”

Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. ⁴⁰ But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. ⁴¹ You do the deeds of your father.”

Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. ⁴³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

- Did you see it? Verse 35? The Slave (Ishmael abided not in the house forever, but Isaac did).
- The Jews knew who he was referring to. They thought and believed and still believe they had/have achieved salvation from birth, by “Pedigree”. Salvation is by Decree...not by Pedigree. **(John 1:12-13)** ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- Jesus alludes to these Jews who mock him as “Types of Ishmael “ that want to kill the promised Child here. “I know you are Abraham’s seed, but you seek to kill me” **(v. 37)**

Galatians 4: 22-31 Ishmael and Isaac Galatians 4:22-31

New King James Version (NKJV)

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 (True Believers), brethren, as Isaac *was*, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh (Ishmael) 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.**

Application to Soteriology and Eschatology

Ishmael was a family (even circumcised) member with full “family” benefits for a long time but was cast out FOREVER from the fellowship and relationship with his father without any inheritance. Likewise in the New Testament we see Jesus explain this reality and possibility of being cast out of the kingdom for not being a TRUE SON. Here are just three examples

- See: Wheat and Tares (**Matthew 13:24-30**)
- Dragnet of Fish (**Matthew 13:47-50**)
- Marriage Supper (**Matthew 22:1-14**)
- Many will say to me on that day..... to many “He will say, I never knew you”. Remember God saying to Abraham (“Take thy son Isaac, Thine only Son Isaac” **Genesis 22:2**)
- How shall we then live? It is important that we live for Christ, to please Christ in all we do; to walk and talk in faith, to abide in Him, to stay in fellowship with Him through all the means of grace that He has availed us to.

Eschatological Questions answered: With the Jewish unbelieving Christ rejecting Nation represented by the Pharisees and as we have seen, their rejection of Jesus corresponds to Ishmael, as in John 8 and Galatians 4; Do we ever see anywhere in the Scriptures where Abraham was told to go out and re-gather Ishmael and his family members and reconstitute a separate family with

Himself and Ishmaels and Hagar in addition to and separate or combined with Isaac? “Behold the goodness and severity of God”.

- So then, who are the “True and Eternal and Only Saved children of Abraham”?

Sons and Heirs

²⁶ For you (true believers) are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ **And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

2 Timothy 2:19

¹⁹ Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

“Therefore, behold the goodness and severity of God”!

And all God's children said: Thank you Lord Jesus!

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