

Living by Gracious Promise, Not Personal Pride
Genesis 21:1-21
May 24, 2020

Christianity is not a religion.

Why is God taking Abraham's sons away in Genesis 21 and 22?

We often trust ourselves, our prayers, our service, our spiritual track record
– God will not allow us to stay there.

God's promise was to be fulfilled in a way that was beyond human ability.

Receiving Isaac, the promised child

The tension and suspense has been building for 9 chapters.

Abraham is to live out of grace, not out of personal effort.

God is faithful, He keeps his word

God is faithful, not because of us, but even in spite of us.

God is almighty, nothing can hinder his promise.

God is in no hurry, His timing is precisely perfect

When they could not fulfill the promise, God gave it to them.

Saying goodbye to Ishmael, the child of the flesh

Sarah demands that Hagar and Ishmael be expelled

Abraham is in agony. It seemed a great evil to him.

God supports Sarah, while answering Abraham's concern.

God is doing something bigger than Abraham.

God is preserving the covenant line

Paul in Galatians 4:21-31

Paul in Romans 9:6-9

Election vs covenant presumption (Romans 9:7)

God blesses Ishmael for Abraham's sake

Many times we are trusting in God, **and** in ourselves.

Pride of life is very subtle.

Don't live out of pride.

Live by faith in the promises of God, receive God's blessing as a pure unmerited favor from God.