

The Promise of the Seed and the Land

Genesis 21

The Seed Promise

Genesis 21:1-21

The Birth of Isaac

Genesis 21:1-7

- The promise of our God is a guarantee. *Titus 1:2*
- The timing of our God is impeccable. *Ephesians 1:11*
- The circumcision of Isaac was not based on the faith of the one circumcised. *Genesis 17*
- Circumcision was an outward picture of what would happen when someone was a true believer. *Colossians 2:11-12*
- The name of Isaac means “he laughs.”
- The age of Abraham is mentioned and would seem to drive home the point that this child was truly a gift from the Lord.
- The laughter of Sarah was the laughter of joy.

The Sending Away of Ishmael

Genesis 21:8-21

- Ishmael was sent away because he was not the promised seed.
- The sin of Ishmael was the immediate cause of his being sent away.
- The sending away of Ishmael cemented the position of Isaac as the chosen seed in the family of Abraham.
- The mercy of God is seen by his care for Ishmael and the promise that he would be the father of a nation. *Genesis 16:9-12*
- The choice of the wife of Ishmael, chosen from the Egyptians, only confirmed that he was not the chosen seed.

The Promise of the Seed

Galatians 3:15-16, 29

- Isaac is the literal seed of Abraham while Jesus is the true seed of Abraham.
- Believers are the seed of Abraham since Jesus represents them on the cross.
- The allegory of Hagar and Sarah explains the true meaning behind Isaac and Ishmael.

Galatians 4:21-31

The Land Promise

Genesis 21:22-34

The Setting

- The blessing of God upon Abraham caused Abimelech to seek out a treaty with Abraham.
- The seizing of Abraham’s well by Abimelech’s servants also provided a reason for Abraham to seek a treaty with Abimelech.

The Covenant with Abimelech

- At Beersheba an agreement or covenant was made between Abraham and Abimelech.
- This covenant guaranteed Abraham’s temporary presence in the promised land.

The Promise of the Land

Genesis 15:17-21

- The literal promise of the land is only a picture of a land that will never end. *Hebrews 4:1-12*
- The faithfulness of the God to Abraham becomes the picture of his faithfulness to us his children. *Philippians 1:6, 2 Timothy 2:11-13*