

Ishmael Must be Removed

2/28/16

Gen 21:1-21 The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. 2 And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. 3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." 7 And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

8 And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. 10 So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac."

11 And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. 13 And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring." 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. 17 And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. 18 Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation." 19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

20 And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. 21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Before he was born, or did anything good or bad, God set His heart and promised covenant on Isaac not Ishmael.

- Another example of God choosing (doctrine of election) Abraham. Rom 9:7-13, Eph 1:4-6, 2 Thes 2:13, Heb 11:18

- This also illustrates: salvation is by grace not by the works of the flesh & the battle between flesh & Spirit. Gal 4:21-24

This account confirms God's sovereign purposes are never delayed or defeated by man's sin but are complete in execution & perfect in timing. Gen 21:1-5

- After 25 years, God fulfills His promise to Abraham and Sarah when a —miracle child born.
- The birth of Isaac resulted in joy & conflict. Gen 21:6-10, 3:15, Gal. 4:28-31
 - Ishmael's jealousy, though understandable, turned into mocking Isaac.

So, the right decision was made for the wrong reason...Hagar & Ishmael must leave.

- Not an endorsing of Sarah's motive but a necessary move for the sovereign purposes of God.
 - This forced Abraham to end his aspirations for Ishmael & removed the fleshly safety net for future testing of Abraham's faith. Gen 21:11-14a, 22:2, Heb 11:17, 2 Cor 5:7
 - It would have been easier to "sacrifice" Isaac if Ishmael was still with him.
 - With no other son to fall back on. Abraham must trust God completely.

Experiences in life are designed to deliver *from* trust in what we do without God (Ishmael) *to* trust in God's power apart from human ability (Isaac). Gal 5:16-18, Elliot quote

- Elizabeth Elliot. "God will not protect you from anything that will make you more like Jesus."
- It's painful when God lovingly removes fleshly things we lean on for hope and joy.
 - Like Abraham, we often won't understand why.
 - Since God is sovereign, then you can trust that He brought you to the right place in spite of the wrong reason.

Maybe like Hagar & Ishmael, you're in a difficult situation because of deceit or maliciousness of maybe because of someone else.

- God hears your cries & will not abandon you. Gen 21:14b-19, Heb 13:5-6, Ps 34:18, 68:5-6
 - This is the 1st record of single mom in Scriptures.
- Hagar is at the end of her own resources and abilities & in desperation looked UP for help!
 - Solution was there all along, but the tears/fears kept her from seeing obvious.
 - So God enabled her to see things as they really were & both were saved.

Jesus loves us enough to bring us to end of ourselves so we look to Him for salvation, deliverance, and/or provision.

- Maybe you're a single parent, a heartbroken parent, an outcast, rejected, abused, sickly, dying... look with hope & faith to God.
 - Put trust in His sovereignty not in your own understanding/schemes.
 - God's purposes are beyond us, but include us.
 - He is working on us, in us, through us, all around us, without us, & often, in spite of us.

- Believe with your whole heart that God's purposes & plans for you are perfect and are not just for the select few people in the Bible, but rather for every person...including you.

