

“Abraham and the Birth of Isaac”

Gen. 21

Open: Story

- Since Abram left his home, he had been promised by God that a great nation would arise from his bosom.
 - **Gen. 12:1-3** *“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get you out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father’s house, unto a land that I will show you: [2] And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing: [3] And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.”*
 - **Gen. 12:6-7** *“And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. [7] And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto your seed will I give this land: and there built he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.”*
 - **Gen. 13:14-17** *“And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now your eyes, and look from the place where you are northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:[15] For all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your seed for ever. [16] And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall your seed also be numbered. [17] Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto you.”*
- Abram begins to doubt God’s promise for his life when God’s promise had not been fulfilled.
 - **Gen. 15:2-5** *“And Abram said, LORD God, what will you give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? [3] And Abram said, Behold, to me you have given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. [4] And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own bowels shall be your heir. [5] And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if you be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall your seed be.”*
- God reaffirms His promise with Abram.
 - **Gen. 15:8-18** *“And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? [9] And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. [10] And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. [11] And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. [12] And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. [13] And he said unto Abram, Know certainly that your seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not their’s, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; [14] And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. [15] And you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. [16] But in the fourth generation they shall come here again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.[17] And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. [18] In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto your seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:*

- Abram allowed those around him to shake his faith in God, by casting doubt in his mind about Gods ability to fulfill His Promise.
 - **Gen. 16:1-2** *“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 has restrained me from bearing: I pray you, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.”*
- Abram decides to try and get Gods promises his own way.
 - **Gen. 16:3-4** *“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.”*
- God changes Abram’s name to Abraham and reassures him the time for the fulfilled promise is at hand.
 - God changes Abram and Sari’s name and reminds him of the previous promise. **Gen.17:1-8,15** *“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 you perfect. [2] And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly. [3] And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, [4] As for me, behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. [5] Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you. [6] And I will make you exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come out of you. [7] And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your seed after you in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto you, and to your seed after you. [8] And I will give unto you, and to your seed after you, the land wherein you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God. [15] And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.”*
 - Name changes represent a fresh start with God. **17: 1 & 17:15**
 - God gives Abraham a sign to remind Him and future generations of God’s fulfilled promises. **Gen. 17:9-12** *“And God said unto Abraham, You shall keep my covenant therefore, you, and your seed after you in their generations. [10] This is my covenant, which all of you shall keep, between me and you and your seed after you; Every male child among you shall be circumcised. [11] And all of you shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant between me and you. [12] And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every male child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of your seed.”*
- God fulfills his promise to Abraham and Sarah.
 - Isaac is born – **Gen. 21:1-3** *“And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. [2] For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, atthe set time of which God had spoken to him. [3] And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.”*

Tran:

- Problems arise because of a lack of faith in God's ability to fulfill His promises.
 - Conflict with others – **Gen. 16:4-6** *“And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. [5] And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon you: I have given my maid into your bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and you. [6] But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, your maid is in your hand; do to her as it pleases you. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.”*
 - Created problems for future generations, Ishmael is born. **Gen. 16:12** *“And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”*
- Learn to not only trust in God's promises, but in the timing of his fulfillment of his promises. **Ecc. 3:1-11** *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven [2] A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; [3] A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; [4] A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; [5] A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; [6] A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; [7] A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; [8] A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. [9] What profit has he that works in that wherein he labours? [10] I have seen the travail, which God has given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. [11] He has made every thing beautiful in his time: also he has set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end.”*
 - God not only created a beautiful world; he created a lifestyle that is as equally as beautiful.
 - Man must learn in order to get God's results; he must trust in God's timing.

I. Recognize God always keeps his promises.

- a. Look at past promises God has fulfilled. (Sending Jesus & Salvation)
- b. Look at current promises God is fulfilling. (Care of your needs)
- c. From the past and presently fulfilled promises we will revive faith to believe in the future fulfillment of promises to come. (Accomplishing what God has called me to do, Jesus' return, and seeing loved ones again.)

II. Realize you cannot get God's promises your own way.

- **John 14:6** "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the Father, but by me."
- a. You must get them his way....obedience
 - i. Money = work
 - ii. Good testimony = right living
- b. You must get them in his timing...patience
 - i. Physical relationship outside marriage.
 - ii. Rushing into relationships with people we are unequally yoked with.

III. Recognize you will delay the fulfillment of God's promises in your life by trying to get them your own way.

- **Is. 55:8** "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."
- a. We delay Gods blessings, when we delay our obedience.
 - i. Children of Israel going into Canaan.
 - ii. Jonah still arrived at the same destination; but with much more delay and
- b. We delay Gods blessings, when we rush Gods timing.
 - i. Abraham being blessed with the promised child Isaac.
 - ii. Lazarus was raised in Gods time not Mary & Martha's.

Is. 55:8

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

1. Why did Abram begin to doubt God's promises? **Because God delayed in fulfilling his promise.**
2. Who did Abram allow to cast doubt on God's ability to fulfill his promise? **People around him.**
3. What happened as a result of Abram and Sari trying to get God's results mans way? **The fulfillment of the promise was delayed.**
4. What was the name given to the promised child? **Isaac.**
5. What is the only way in life to see God's promises in you life fulfilled? **Obedience.**