

The Promised Son is Born

Genesis 21: 1-8

We have been studying the life of Abraham for some time now. We began our journey back in Genesis 12. God came to Abraham as he dwelt in the land of Ur of the Chaldees. God asked Abraham to follow Him unto a land that He would reveal, promising a great nation through him. Abraham was seventy five years old when he began to follow God. For many long years Abraham faithfully followed God, patiently waiting for the son of promise. Abraham is now 100 years old, and the time for his son had finally come.

While studying the life of Abraham, I have been greatly encouraged and deeply convicted. Waiting on the Lord and having patience have never been one of my strengths. Some are more patient than others, but I am sure many of you can identify with my struggle. Most of us would have a problem waiting twenty five days, much less twenty five years. Abraham's life reveals that we must continue to walk my faith, trusting the Lord's promises, even when we are tempted to think He has forgotten us. Deep down we know that the Lord is faithful, and yet we tend to get weary in the journey and are often tempted to abandon the course. I hope our study today will renew our commitment to the Lord and deepen our resolve to faithfully follow Him.

As we consider the [aspects](#) of this miraculous event in Abraham's life, I want to preach on: [The Promised Son is Born](#).

I. The Faithfulness of God (1-2) – Our opening verses reveal the faithfulness of God as He dealt with Abraham. We are reminded of:

A. His Promise (1) – [And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken](#). God had promised to make a mighty nation through Abraham twenty five years earlier. In a moment of impatience, Abraham and Sarah decided to seek a son through Hagar. While Abraham did bear a son, Ishmael, through Hagar, he was not the promised son. That was fourteen years prior, when Abraham was eighty six. Following the LORD, patiently waiting, Abraham received a promise for his son when he was ninety nine years old. [Gen.17:19 – And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him](#). God kept His promise and a son was born to Abraham and Sarah.

- Like Abraham, we get weary in waiting. In our times of doubt through impatience, we must continue to trust the Lord and His promises. We know He has promised to never leave or forsake

us. He has promised eternal life and a home in heaven. Life down here is difficult at times, but we can always rest in the eternal promises of our Lord.

B. His Provision (2a) – For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age. Clearly this was a miracle through God’s provision. Sarah was ninety and Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born. No doubt they aged differently than we do today, but the Bible declares that they were both well past child bearing years. There could be no doubt that God had provided a great miracle in the birth of Isaac.

- Is anything too hard for God? We tend to look at our circumstances and assume it is hopeless, but the Lord is more than able to make a way for us. He will provide what He has promised. We serve the same Lord who performed mighty miracles in the Bible. [Isaiah 59:1 – Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear.](#)

C. His Plan (2b) – For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham and Sarah may have doubted, but God fully intended to keep His promise according to His divine will. At the appointed time of God’s choosing, Isaac was born.

- We must remember that God’s timing is not always consistent with our wants or desires. A delay does not always mean God has denied our request. He may provide what we seek, but it will always be in His time, not necessarily ours.
- This verse reminded me of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. [Gal.4:4 – But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.](#) Few were looking for the coming of Christ, and most had likely forgotten God’s promise; but in the fullness of time, Christ came to redeem us from sin, according to God’s divine plan. God is seldom early; He is never late, but He will always be on time!

II. The Submissiveness of Abraham (3-5) – Here we see Abraham’s compliance with the plan and will of God. Consider:

A. His Obedience (3) – And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. God had instructed Abraham to name the promised son Isaac. At his birth, Abraham named Isaac as God had commanded. He did not question or argue with God; he was completely obedient. In that day names often carried special meaning. Abraham means “*father of multitudes*,” Sarah means “*princess*,” and Ishmael means “*God hears*.” Isaac simply means

laughter.” We will discuss this further in a moment, but it is likely they would have desired a nobler sounding name for the son of promise. However, Abraham did as the Lord commanded and named his son Isaac.

- We must learn to be obedient to the voice and commands of God. He is faithful to provide for our needs, and we must serve in obedience.

B. His Reverence (4) – *And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.* Again Abraham was obedient to the commands of God, circumcising Isaac when he was eight days old. This was in accordance to the command that all the male children in Abraham’s house be circumcised. This identified them with the God of Abraham, declaring to the nations that they were the people of God. Abraham acted in obedience in order to show reverence and respect to God.

- There can be no question regarding God’s faithfulness to us. He daily cares for us and meets our needs. He provided the means of salvation through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. We belong to Him, being purchased by His precious blood. The least we can do as His children is to honor Him through our worship and reverence.

C. His Dependence (5) – *And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.* An undeniable miracle had happened in Abraham’s life – one hundred year old men do not have children born unto them. God had promised a son, and He had provided. Abraham was totally dependent upon God for Isaac to be born.

- Few like to admit their utter dependence upon the Lord. Honestly, without Him we would surely perish. Many motivational speakers pitch the idea that we are the masters of our own destiny. While I agree that decisions we make can have lasting consequences, we must also realize that our lives are held within the Lord’s mighty hand. Were it not for Him, we could not survive. He provides all that we possess and enjoy in life. I am thankful that He holds me in His hand, daily meeting my needs!

III. The Happiness of Sarah (6-7) – Finally we discover the joy and happiness Isaac brought to Sarah. Consider:

A. Her Jubilation (6) – *And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.* Knowing the journey Sarah had taken to get to this point in life, one can understand her

jubilation. The reproach and shame of a barren womb were now gone. She experienced the joy of having a child of her own. She had laughed at the prospect of bearing a son at such an old age, and now here laughter was prompted by joy instead of skepticism. Her joy would be shared by all who knew her, and even generations to come as God provided a great nation through Abraham and Isaac. His name meaning laughter was appropriate after all.

- There is unspeakable joy in serving the Lord, especially when we have gained a victory following a long battle. Weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning!

B. Her Admission (7a) – *And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck?* Sarah graciously acknowledged her doubt and lack of faith, and admits that God had been faithful. She had questioned His promise, but God had provided. God had turned her shame into joy. She praised God for His faithfulness.

- I am sure we have all doubted much like Sarah did when faced with difficulty. Yet through it all, God was faithful. Have we not looked back over our lives in amazement while pondering the goodness and grace of God? In those times we had to admit that God had provided when it seemed impossible.

C. Her Confirmation (7b) – *for I have born him a son in his old age.* Sarah affirmed that God had been faithful in their lives. More times than not they doubted, but she had delivered the promised son in their old age. The promises of God were true and He had provided.

- These promises are often hard to see when we are in the midst of the storm or walking in the valley. Aren't you glad for those times when God delivers on His promises and allows you to see His gracious hand of provision? Like Sarah, in those moments we have to give God praise, knowing He alone could have provided such a miracle.

Conclusion: *Genesis 21:8 – And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.* God had provided the promised son and He allowed him to grow and prosper. It had taken years, but God had been faithful. He wasn't about to fail Abraham and Sarah now. Isaac would grow into the man God intended, bearing Esau and Jacob. Through Jacob the nation of Israel would be born. God's faithfulness prompted Abraham to make of feast of celebration and worship to God.

We must honor God for His faithfulness to us. He is worthy of our praise. This passage reveals the plan of God being fulfilled for the Promised Son to come and redeem our sin.

Generations later Christ would be born of the bloodline that began with Isaac. Do you know Christ as your Lord and Savior? God was faithful to provide a Redeemer for our sin. If you have yet to respond to the offer of salvation, come in repentance and faith today!