

Genesis 20-21: God's Faithfulness.

1. (20:1-2) Abraham lies in a similar manner as before (Genesis 12). After the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham moved. Probably traumatized and really confused. It is all too easy to slip back into sinful habits.
2. (3-7) Abraham again gives away his wife but God protects Sarah. Sarah's womb was going to bring forth the son of promise.
3. (8-10) Abraham (just like last time) suffers rebuke from a heathen king. It is sad to see that Abimelech - the pagan king - is in the right, and Abraham - the man of God is in the wrong.
4. (11-13) Abraham's excuse. This is an indirect way of blaming God for the problem. "It is used of animals going astray, of a drunken man reeling, or staggering..."

"Abraham should have said: 'Forgive me, Abimelech, for dishonoring both you and my God. My selfish cowardice overwhelmed me, and I denied my God by fearing that He who called me could not take care of me. He is not as your gods of wood and stone. He is the God of glory. He is the living God, the Creator, the most High God, possessor of heaven and earth. He told me He would be my shield and my exceeding great reward, and supplier of all my needs ... In sinning against Him, I sinned against you. Forgive me, Abimelech.'" (Barnhouse)

5. (14-18) Abimelech's gift recompenses Sarah, and Abraham prays for him. Abraham should have been giving gifts to Abimelech, because he was in the wrong. **I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver:** We can imagine the irony in Abimelech's voice when he refers to Abraham as Sarah's **brother**.

Genesis 21: The Isaac Of Isaac.

1. (21:1-7) God fulfills His promise to Abraham and Sarah.

It took a long time (25 years) for this promise to come to pass, but God was faithful to His promise. God's promises never fail. The promise of a son was not fulfilled because Abraham was perfect in his obedience, but because God was faithful to His Word.

Isaac becomes a wonderful type (picture) of Jesus:

- Both were the promised sons.
- Both were born after a period of delay.
- Both mothers were assured by God's omnipotence ([Gen 18:13-14](#); [Luke 1:34, 37](#)).

- Both were named before birth.
- Both births were miraculous.
- Both births were accompanied by joy ([Genesis 21:6](#); [Luke 1:46-47](#); [2:10-11](#)).

Hebrews 11:11 - *By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.*

1 Corinthians 1:9 - *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

2 Corinthians 1:20 - *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

2. (8-14) Sarah wants Abraham to cast out both Hagar and Ishmael.

This conflict between the two sons was almost inevitable. God's solution was clear - get rid of the son of the flesh.

Flesh and blood do not make the strongest bond God wants us to honor. There are circumstances where we can do nothing other than put away family for the glory of God.

Romans 8:5 - *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:24 - *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires*

Romans 8:12 - *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.*

3. ([15-21](#)) God preserves Ishmael and Hagar in the desert. The descendants of Ishmael became the Arabic people.

4. ([22-34](#)) Abraham makes a no-hostility treaty with Abimelech. **Abimelech** is the *title* of a ruler among the Canaanites, not a specific name.

Romans 12:18 - *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

Matthew 5:9 - *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*