

Lesson Four – Genesis 21-23 (Isaac’s Birth; Sacrifice of Isaac; Death of Sarah)

Chapter 21 – Isaac’s Birth; Banishment of Hagar & Ishmael; Treaty with Abimelech

1. Read vv. 1-7. Isaac means “he laughs”. Does Sarah’s comment on this reflect doubt or faith at this point? Does it seem the same as in chapter 18?
2. Read vv. 8-21. Ishmael “laughs” (v.9) – What kind of laughter? What is Sarah’s reaction to this and what does she ask Abraham to do?
3. God sides with Sarah in this matter – why? What does God promise Abraham regarding Ishmael and why?
4. Abraham’s provision for Hagar and Ishmael when he sends them away – do they seem miserly or abundant to you? Why does he do this? Read the rest of the chapter.

Chapter 22 – Sacrifice of Isaac

5. Read vv. 1-5. What is the difference between God “testing” a believer and Satan “tempting” a believer? Cf. James 1:2-4, 12-15.

6. Describe the actions of Abraham in response to God's comment to him to offer Isaac as a burnt offering. Are they actions reflecting "doubt" or "trust"? What indicates this?

7. Read 6-8, 13-14. Describe the conversation of Isaac and Abraham. Does Abraham answer Isaac's question, or is he being deceptive? Considering what Abraham calls the mount (also read Hebrews 11:17-19) – What trust and faith does Abraham show in God Almighty?

8. Because Abraham obeyed God in regard to offering Isaac – What does God promise Abraham?

Chapter 23 – Death & Burial of Sarah

9. Read 17:17; 21:5. How old was Isaac when Sarah dies? Where is Sarah buried? In what city? Why is Abraham allowed to bury her there? Note: This is the only place which Abraham ever possesses in Canaan. The land belongs to his descendants.