

*God's Promise Fulfilled*  
*Genesis 21:1-21*

*“But now both Abraham and Sarah knew that God had been faithful in every detail of his word. The birth of Isaac was a precise, empirical validation of God’s promise. A ninety-year-old mother (the only ninety-year-old nursing mother in history) and her baby boy bore proud evidence. Thus here in Genesis we get a sampling of what has been the experience of God’s people in all ages: God is true to his word. Jesus would declare, ‘Truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished’ (Matthew 5:18). This solemn declaration by the One who is himself the ‘Yes’ to all the promises of Scripture (2 Cor. 1:20) means that you and I can, and must, trust every syllable of God’s word. This is the way every Christian is meant to live—in deepest trust in all of God’s word—just as Jesus lived.” Grant Hughes*

- I. All of God’s promises are yes in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20). There isn’t one promise given by God that won’t be fulfilled, not one. His promise to Abraham and Sarah brought about the miraculous birth of their only child Isaac. His birth put in motion the promise God made to Satan of his ultimate defeat through the offspring of the woman, the Messiah, in Genesis 3:15. That promise was fulfilled in 6-4 B.C. through the miraculous birth of Jesus, the Son of God. His death burial and resurrection changed history forever, along with the lives of countless people around the world, through the miraculous spiritual rebirth of anyone who would believe upon Him for not only the forgiveness of their sins, but also for the gift of eternal life. Jesus said to the Pharisee Nicodemus, *“Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again” (John 3:3)*. The Apostle John wrote, *“Yet to all who receive him to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God (Jn. 1:12-13)*. Are you born again? Are you a child of the promise?

Gal. 21:1-2

Eph. 2:1-4

John 3:1-8

1 Peter 1:23

James 1:18

Lk. 15:10

**1 John 5:1** Πᾶς (everyone) ὁ πιστεύων (who believes) ὅτι (that) Ἰησοῦς (Jesus) ἐστίν (is) ὁ Χριστὸς (the Christ), ἐκ (out) τοῦ Θεοῦ (of God) γεγέννηται (is born).

*Christ = "anointed" Christ was [and is] the Messiah, the Son of God.*

**Gal. 4:28** *Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.*

*“In the same way, men and women become God’s children when God the Father of his own will takes the seed of his Word and plants it within the heart, causing it to unite with **the ovum** of saving faith.” Boice*

- II. There are times when it is very good to laugh and have joy, for Abraham and Sarah it was one of those times. For the last three chapters, 89 verses, there had been nothing but one grim event after another. There was God calling Sarah out for her sarcastic unbelief. There was the announcement of Sodom's impending destruction and Abraham's plea for God's mercy. There was the unknown concerning the fate of Lot and his family. And there was Abraham's shameful attempt to deceive Abimelech. This all takes place within the course of a year and it no doubt, took a toll on both Abraham and Sarah's emotional, physical, and spiritual wellbeing. Trials will do that; they can beat us down. Yet, God never intends for us to stay beat down or despairing. His intent is to change our hearts and our understanding of life and what's important to him. The trials Abraham and Sarah went through were meant to mature and equip them to better fulfill God's will. He brought them to a place in their lives where they understood on a very deep level his character, grace, and sovereignty over all matters. He brought them to the point of absolute joy in seeing God's promise to them fulfilled.

Gen. 21:1-8  
Heb. 12:2-3  
James 1:2-4

**Phil. 4:4** *Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.*

- III. Hagar also grew in her relationship with the Lord, but in a very different way. We can't imagine what it must have been like to leave the comfort of her home with barely enough food and water for her and Ismael to survive on. On the surface, it seems cruel and unloving, but she had to leave for the sake of the gospel. Galatians 4:21-31 explains it well. God was not unkind to her and Ismael, instead he assured her that they would be immeasurably blessed by Him. They had to separate from Abraham for the sake of Isaac's spiritual and emotional wellbeing. He was carrying the seed of the Messiah to be given to his son and so forth. Any hinderance to God's will concerning the fulfillment of His promise of the Messiah had to be removed. It always boils down to trust. Abraham obeyed, even though it must have been extremely difficult to do so, trusting that God knew best. Hagar had no choice, but she too learned to trust God in ways that only the distraught, hopeless, down and outers can understand. Think of the awe she must have felt when God provided for her the way He did when all hope was lost.

Gen. 21:11-21  
Rom. 9:6-9

**Prov. 3:5-6** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

**1 Peter 5:6-7** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight.*