

## Genesis Chapter Twenty-One



~ In our last report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, we considered the confession of Abraham and Sarah to the Lord about their habitual lying and, quite frankly, I don't want to hear another confession from them - because there's nothing I can do for them – and that makes me feel helpless. Likewise, some man in a box hearing your confession of sins is an exercise in perverted and psychologically self-abusive behavior. Christ is our Holy High Priest today, friends. He is the only One Who can help you with your sins; and He is ready to take your confession all day long. Confessing the intimate details of your sins to a man that may or may not be worthy to speak to God on your behalf is just plain Satanic. Period. Full stop. Abraham and Sarah confessed the sins they had committed to God in prayer and, as a result, Christ dealt with the sin in their lives for them. That's the only way we can have fellowship with the Father. There is no other way. Remember, Abraham confessed the lies that he and Sarah told at least twice that we know of over the course of twenty-five years. Now, with that sin dealt with, they have the opportunity to receive the Lord's blessing of the promise of Isaac....

***1 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, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.***

~ There is a very striking similarity to and some marvelous truths to be seen in a comparison of the birth of Isaac and the birth of Christ: Isaac was born at a set time. Paul, in Galatians, said, "...in the fullness of time God sent forth His Son, born under a woman, born under the law..." Isaac was a miraculous birth and was absolutely contrary to a natural process. Paul said, "...Abraham regarded not the deadness of his own body; nor the deadness of Sarah's womb." So, out of deadness, God now brings forth life. In this Scriptural account, God indicated to mankind what He was going to do in the future! This is the first miraculous birth - but it isn't the only miraculous birth. John the Baptist was also a miraculous birth. So was Samson; but Isaac and Christ have seven most unusual comparisons: (1) the birth of both Isaac and Jesus are both promised by God in His Word (2) there was a very long interval between the promise and its fulfillment (3) the announcement of the birth of both Isaac and Jesus seemed both incredulous and impossible. Remember, Sarah laughed when those men announced Isaac would be born. Mary was the first one to raise a question about

Jesus when she asked the angel how it could be; seeing she had known no man (4) both Isaac and Jesus were named before their birth (5) both births occurred at God's specific appointed time (6) both were a joy to their parents (7) both sons were obedient unto death.

Ishmael was right there for his baby brother when Isaac was born; and I'm sure Ishmael loved Isaac with that child-like worldly love wherewith the world loves its own today. Up until now, Ishmael seemed like a pretty nice young man. Isaac, of course, means Ishmael will have no inheritance in the family. Suddenly, Ishmael isn't so nice anymore. This is human nature, friends – and we will see it rear its ugly head again and again in the Bible throughout their nations. Islam is antagonistic and whose hand is against his brother! That has been the picture of the Arab down through the centuries.

This is also an abjectly sobering illustration of how a believer has two natures. Before we are converted we have an old nature that is dead in trespasses and sins – and we are free to do whatever we want to do - naturally. When nature dictates ones life it's never nice. When we are born again we receive a new nature. Taking responsibility for that new nature is where the Christian's trouble always begins. Paul says there is always a spiritual battle between the old and new nature. Paul said, "...what I would not, that I do; and that I would do, I find not how to do it." The old nature wants to do some very bad things; and there will come a time when we have to decide if we are going to yield unto the Spirit of God in our lives – or not. Ishmael wanted the material stuff; he wasn't interested in any spiritual blessings.

We must permit the Holy Spirit to empower us, or we will have to yield to the uncontrollable influence of the energy of the world upon this flesh. There is no third alternative for mankind. Here, the son of the bondwoman must be put out. God said so. This thing was grievous in Abraham's sight because of his own sin – son – sin – son....Ishmael is just as much of a son as Isaac is as far as the flesh is concerned! I'm sure Abraham was, at least, somewhat attached to Ishmael, who is now thirteen years old. God did not approve of what happened with Abraham and Hagar, friends - and this is the resulting heart-break – you can just write that down. You'll get one EVERY time you act outside of the will of God! God cannot – will not – accept sin, sin in your life. God did not approve of it here with Abraham and He doesn't intend to ever approve of it at all. It's all an embarrassing, tragic heartbreak in this section of Scripture.

We cannot live in both natures; it is impossible. James said you have to make this decision, or you are unstable in all of your ways. Of course, this account explains the instability and insecurity amongst most Christians today. They want to run with the crowd and yet they say they want to go with Christ. That's delusional. You're not going with both, friends; because God said that would literally be impossible. You and I have two natures: a black horse and a white horse. They refuse to work together. You can't tame the white horse and you

can't break the black horse. I remember seeing a man riding two horses with one foot on each horse. Well, when those two horses parted ways that man made a quick decision which horse he was going with. Paul said, "...yield yourself; yield your members as instruments of righteousness." How are you doing with that, my beloved? Man cannot measure up to the law; he fails every time. Only the Spirit of God can transform a life.

So, Isaac grew up and we are told he was "weaned." Newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word that they might grow – but every child must be weaned off of the bottle. There comes the day when any genuine son of God really wants to grow up. Instead of just copying and pasting Psalm 23 and John 17 over and over again, they desire a worthier approach. Try going all the way with God in some area of your life today. Why don't you try learning the ENTIRE Word of God properly, correctly and completely? Let me suggest you pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment – and then read the entire text of this chapter completely in your own Bible – and then read the remainder of this report - before we look at why the birth of Isaac is a type of the resurrection of Christ. Out of death came life, my beloved. When Paul says this he also mentions that Christ was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification....

***3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.***

***4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him.***

***5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.***

***6 And Sarah said , God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.***

***7 And she said , Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck ? for I have born him a son in his old age.***

***8 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.***

***9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.***

***10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.***

***11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.***

**12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.**

**13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.**

**14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.**

**15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs.**

**16 And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept.**

**17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.**

**18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation.**

**19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink.**

**20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.**

**21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.**

**22 And it came to pass at that time, that Abimelech and Phichol the chief captain of his host spake unto Abraham, saying, God is with thee in all that thou doest:**

**23 Now therefore swear unto me here by God that thou wilt not deal falsely with me, or with my son, or with my son's son: but according to the kindness that I have done unto thee, thou shalt do unto me, and to the land wherein thou hast sojourned.**

**24 And Abraham said, I will swear.**

**25 And Abraham reprov'd Abimelech because of a well of water, which Abimelech's servants had violently taken away.**

**26 And Abimelech said, I wot not who hath done this thing: neither didst thou tell me, neither yet heard I of it, but to day.**

**27 And Abraham took sheep and oxen, and gave them unto Abimelech; and both of them made a covenant.**

**28 And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves.**

**29 And Abimelech said unto Abraham, What mean these seven ewe lambs which thou hast set by themselves?**

**30 And he said, For these seven ewe lambs shalt thou take of my hand, that they may be a witness unto me, that I have digged this well.**

**31 Wherefore he called that place Beersheba; because there they swore both of them.**

**32 Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba: then Abimelech rose up, and Phichol the chief captain of his host, and they returned into the land of the Philistines.**

**33 And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.**

**34 And Abraham sojourn'd in the Philistines' land many days.**

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this rather short leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with the lineage of Ishmael also ending. This is goodbye for him. We will see his nations as they cross the Godly line of Isaac in Israel as we traverse Holy Writ; but we'll never follow Ishmael's family again. They're out there in the desert right now as I type this report and as you read it - and I recognize not all Arabs are living in the desert – but, either way, we're also going to leave Abraham now - as he is calling upon the name of God continually. In our next report, we're going to a human sacrifice ~

