

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES ~ Genesis 21:1-34

→ Scripture Reading Genesis 17 & 18 (selected verses)

THE BIRTH OF LITTLE LAUGHTER ~ Genesis 21:1-7

[1] Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. [2] Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. [3] Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. [4] When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. [5] Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. [6] Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." [7] And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

NAMED HIM (ISAAC) LAUGHTER BECAUSE... Constable

- God **COMMANDED** it
- Isaac would be a **SOURCE** of JOY
- Abraham and Sarah had **BOTH LAUGHED** in Amazement and Unbelief respectively

APPLICATION

Hebrews 11:11-12 (HCS) By **FAITH** even Sarah herself, when she was **unable to have children**, received **POWER** to **CONCEIVE** offspring, **even though she was past the age**, since she considered that the One who had promised was **FAITHFUL**. [12] Therefore from one man - in fact, **from one as good as dead** - came offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as innumerable as the grains of sand by the seashore.

Waiting either BUILDS Faith or DESTROYS Faith (Depending on our **RESPONSE**)

God was NOT good to Sarah because Sarah was good. **God was good to Sarah because God is GOOD**. The same is true of us. God has been good to us because of His Grace and Mercy not because we are good. *Strassner*

SAVING GRACE - God offering us a **RELATIONSHIP** with Himself & all the riches of Heaven **THROUGH** Jesus' Death

Titus 3:4-5 (NLT) ...When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, HE SAVED US, **NOT because of the righteous things we had done**, but because of HIS **MERCY**. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

SUSTAINING GRACE - the **POWER** and the strength to **LIVE** the Christian in **VICTORY**

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV) But he said to me, "My **GRACE** is **SUFFICIENT** for you, for **MY POWER** is **MADE PERFECT** in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. [10] That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

FUTURE GRACE - When we **SEE** Him we will be **LIKE** Him (1 John 3:2)

1 Peter 1:13 (NIV) Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; **set your hope fully on the GRACE** to be given you **when Jesus Christ is revealed**.

THREAT TO THE INHERITANCE ~ Genesis 21:8-21

[8] The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. [9] But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, [10] and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." ...[12] But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ...[16]...And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob. [17] God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. [18] Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." ...[20] God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. [21] While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

FACTS OF THIS EVENT

- Hagar & Ishmael are SENT AWAY vs.14
- God SPOKE to Hagar AGAIN vs.17-18
- God Promises to BLESS Ishmael vs.13, 18, Gen. 16:10
- God RESCUED Hagar and Ishmael vs.19
- God was WITH the boy vs. 20

APPLICATION

Saving Grace is FREE - Living every day by Sustaining Grace is COSTLY
Salvation is FREE - Discipleship is COSTLY

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV) For it is by GRACE you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the GIFT of God - [9] NOT BY WORKS, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus TO DO GOOD WORKS, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

TREATY AT BEERSHEBA ~ Genesis 21:22-34

[22] At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do. [23] Now swear to me here before God that you will not deal falsely with me or my children or my descendants. Show to me and the country where you are living as an alien the same kindness I have shown to you. [24] Abraham said, I swear it.

... [33] Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the LORD, the Eternal God. [34] And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

TAKE AWAY ??

FAITHFUL - consistent, trustworthy, and loyal to a person, promise, or duty Encarta

God is FAITHFUL - He made Promises and He did EXACTLY what He Promised

Hebrews 10:23-25 (NIV) **Let us hold unswervingly to the HOPE we profess, for he who PROMISED is FAITHFUL.** [24] And let us **consider how** we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. [25] Let us NOT GIVE UP meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but LET US ENCOURAGE one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.