

Steve Greenberg's Handout

Week 18, May 27, 2026 Genesis 21 Isaac Is Born, God Heard Ishmael

Genesis 21:1-7 Isaac Is Born (Heb 11:11)

Gen 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah (**exactly**) as He had spoken (**God keeps His promises**).

Gen 21:2 For Sarah conceived (**became pregnant**) and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set (**or appointed**) time of which God had spoken to him (**so it was at the very time God had promised to Abraham**).

A mistake we often make is not waiting upon God's timing and or redefining or helping God out some way, somehow?

Gen 18:10 And He (**one of the three**) said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son." (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)

Gen 18:14 "Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

Heb 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 (**Sarah**) judged Him (**God**) faithful who had promised (**true to His word**).

Heb 11:12 Therefore from one man, and him (**physically**) as good as dead, were born (**descendants**) as many as the stars of the sky, in multitude, (**and**) innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Gen 21:3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him--whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac (**Isaac means "he laughs" or "laughter"**).

Gen 17:19 Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

Gen 17:21 "But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

Gen 21:4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac, when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

Isaac is circumcised by Abraham, obeying God's instructions

Gen 17:10 "This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;

Gen 17:11 "and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

Gen 17:12 "He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.

Act 7:8 (Stephen's recounts the call of Abraham)"Then He(God) gave him(Abraham) the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs.

Gen 21:5 Now Abraham was one hundred (100) years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Gen 21:6 And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear (about our minacious birth) will laugh with (and for) me."

Gen 21:7 She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children (breast feed a baby boy at 90)? For I have borne him (given Abraham), a son, in his old age (100)."

Genesis 21:8-14 Hagar and Ishmael Are Told To Leave (Gal 4:21–30)

Gen 21:8 So the child (Isaac) grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast (to celebrate the occasion) on the same day that Isaac was weaned (taken of mother's milk, usually at about three years of age).

Gen 21:9 And (as time went on) Sarah saw (Ishmael) the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing (continually mocking and laughing at her son, Isaac).

Ishmael was about 17 years old and should know better, than to continually ridicule or tease his much younger brother, his behavior was inappropriate.

Gen 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

Gen 16:4 So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

Gen 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

Apostle Paul writes under the anointing & inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Gal 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

Gal 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

Gal 4:24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar--

Gal 4:25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children--

Gal 4:26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Gal 4:27 For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband."

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

Gal 4:29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

Gal 4:30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

Gal 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Gen 21:10 Therefore she(**Sarah**) said to Abraham (**demanding**), "Cast out (**banish, drive away**) this bondwoman (**maidservant**) and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir (**share the inheritance**) with my son, namely with Isaac."

Gal 3:18 For if the inheritance is of the law (**is based on observing the law as some false teachers claim**), it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise (**as a gift by faith, through His grace**).

Abraham had listened to the voice of Sarah and that was a cause for Ishmael existence. We need to seek God that was Abraham fault he didn't, but now God is going to speak to him and make it clear.

Gen 21:11 And the matter was very displeasing (**distressing and grievous**) in Abraham's sight, because of his son (**even though a product of the flesh or on account of his son, he still loved him and was concerned about him**).

Those today who rely upon human strength and wisdom (the flesh), are still fighting and persecuting those who follow God in faith through the promise (gift of salvation).

The same battle today between trusting in the flesh and trusting in the Holy Spirit. Law and grace cannot live together as principles for our Christian life, and there is no question we belong to the free, not the bondwoman.

God wants us to reckon the old nature dead. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (Galatians 5:24).

Gal 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gal 2:21 "I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

Gen 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad (**Ishmael**) or because of your bondwoman (**maidservant**). Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice (**obey her words**); for in Isaac your seed shall be called (**listen to your wife Sarah and do what she asks, for your descendants (offspring) will be named through Isaac**).

Rom 9:6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,

Rom 9:7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."

Rom 9:8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

Rom 4:13 For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Rom 4:14 For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise made of no effect,

Rom 4:15 because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression.

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

Heb 11:18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called, (Through Isaac descendants will carry on your name),"

Heb 11:19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

Gen 21:13 "Yet I will also make a nation of the son (**Ishmael**) of the bondwoman (**Hagar the Egyptian**), because he(**Ishmael**) is your seed (**your descendant too**)."

Gen 17:20 "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

Gen 21:14 So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread (**food**) and a skin of water (**the skin was used as a container to hold water**); and putting it on her (**Hagar's**) shoulder, he(**Abraham**) gave it (**food & water**) and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she (**Hagar**) departed and wandered (**aimlessly, losing her way**) in the Wilderness (**Desert**) of Beersheba.

Sometimes you have to let God be a person's strength, you cannot play God and take care of every problem for your children they need to experience God for themselves. Without God in their life working they are only using and relying on Mans strength and wisdom which will get them nowhere with regards to heavenly things.

Ishmael was born when Abraham was eighty-six (86) years old (Gen 16:16), so Ishmael was about fourteen (14) when Isaac was born (Abraham was one-hundred (100) years old), and then weaned, add another three years, making Ishmael about 17 years old when this happened (Gen 21:8; 2Chr 31:16).

Jhn 8:34 Jesus answered them (blood related Abraham's descendants, not believers), "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

Jhn 8:35 "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

Jhn 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Jhn 8:56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

Jhn 8:57 Then the Jews said to Him(Jesus), "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

Jhn 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Genesis 21:15-21 God Heard the Voice of the Ishmael

Gen 21:15 And the water in the skin was used up (gone), and she placed the boy (in the shade) under one of the shrubs (bushes).

Gen 21:16 Then she(Hagar) went and sat down across from him (opposite Ishmael) at a distance of about a bowshot (hundred yards away); for she said to herself (in thought), "Let me not (I refuse to) see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept (uncontrollably).

Gen 21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad (Ishmael which means "God hears"). Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails (or troubles) you, Hagar? Fear not (do not worry or be afraid), for God has heard the voice of the lad (Abraham's son), where he is (under the shrub bush).

Exo 3:6 Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

Exo 3:7 And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

Exo 3:8 "So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

Gen 21:18 "Arise (**Get up! Help him**), lift up the lad (**your boy**) and hold him with your hand, for I(**God**) will make him a great nation."

Gen 21:19 Then God opened her (**Hagar's**) eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the (**empty**) skin with water, and gave the lad (**her boy**) a drink.

Num 22:31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

Gen 21:20 So God was with the lad (**Ishmael**); and he grew (**and matured**) and dwelt (**lived**) in the wilderness, and became an archer (**expert with the bow**).

Gen 16:12 He (**Ishmael**) shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

Gen 21:21 He(**Ishmael**) dwelt (**lived**) in the Wilderness of Paran (**central region in northern Sinai**); and his mother took (**found and arranged**) a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Gen 24:4 (**A bride for Isaac, Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house**) "**but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac.**"

Genesis 21:22-34 Abraham Agreed To a Covenant with Abimelech at Beersheba

Gen 21:22 And it came to pass at that time that Abimelech (**King**) and Phichol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, "God is with you in all that you do (**God is obviously with you, Abimelech attributes Abraham's success to God helping him in everything he does**).

Gen 39:2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Gen 39:3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.

Gen 39:4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

Gen 21:23 "Now therefore, swear to me by God that you will not deal falsely (**unfairly**) with me, with my offspring (**children**), or with my posterity (**descendants**); but that according to the kindness that I have done to you (**treated you**), you will do to me (**treat me the same loyalty**) and to the land in which you have dwelt (**sojourned and temporarily lived**)."

Gen 21:24 And Abraham said, "I will swear."

Gen 21:25 Then Abraham rebuked (**lodged a complaint to**) Abimelech, because of a well of water which Abimelech's servants had seized (**taken by force from my servants**).

A big problem in that day, who owns the well? Water was important and hard to find, usually only man made wells

Gen 21:26 And Abimelech said (**answered Abraham**), "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor had I heard of it until today (**this is the first I've heard of it, and I have no idea who is responsible**)."

Gen 21:27 So Abraham took sheep and oxen (**cattle**) and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant (**treaty, binding agreement**).

Gen 21:28 And Abraham set seven ewe (**female**) lambs of the flock, (**off**) by themselves.

Gen 21:29 Then Abimelech asked Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?"

Gen 21:30 And he(**Abraham**) said (**replied**), "You will take (**please accept**) these seven ewe (**female**) lambs from my hand, that they may be my witness (**legal proof**), that I have dug this well."

Gen 21:31 Therefore he(**Abraham**) called that place Beersheba (**which means: Well of the Oath or Well of the Seven**), because the two of them swore an oath there.

Gen 26:32 It came to pass the same day that Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water."

Gen 26:33 So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day (The city of Beersheba, in the northern Negeb, marked the southern boundary of Israel).

Jdg 20:1 So all the children of Israel came out, from Dan (north) to Beersheba (south), as well as from the land of Gilead, and the congregation gathered together as one man before the LORD at Mizpah.

Gen 21:32 Thus they made a covenant (**agreement, treaty**) at Beersheba. So (**afterwards**) Abimelech rose with Phichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines.

Gen 21:33 Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD (**worshipped and was in prayer to**), the Everlasting (**Eternal**) God (**Hebrew: El-Olam**).

Gen 4:26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Act 2:21 it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

Rom 10:13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Gen 21:34 And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days (**Abraham lived and sojourned as a foreigner in Philistine country for a many days**).

Heb 11:9 By faith he(**Abraham**) dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

Heb 11:10 for he(**Abraham**) waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Heb 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced (**and welcomed**) them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them (**Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and those who worship the true and living God**).

End, Prayer

Scripture

Numbers 23:19
Joshua 21:45 “
Joshua 23:14
1 Kings 8:56
Psalm 145:13
Isaiah 55:10–11
Lamentations 3:22–23
2 Corinthians 1:20
Hebrews 10:23

Promises of God

God does not lie or change His mind; what He promises He will do.
Not one of God's good promises failed to Israel.
Every promise God made came true.
Not one word of God's promise failed.
The Lord is faithful in all His words.
God's word accomplishes what He sends it to do.
God's faithfulness is renewed every morning.
All God's promises are "Yes" in Christ.
God is faithful to keep His promises (God who has promised is faithful).