

## Timeline of Truth – God Keeps His Promise (Gen 21:1-21)

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.

### 1. God's Word Is Reliable

#### Developing Promises Relating to Descendants:

- God will make of Abraham a great nation.
- God will give a particular land to Abraham's descendants.
- God will make the descendants of Abraham like the dust of the earth.
- God will provide an heir from Abraham's own body.
- God will make Abraham exceedingly fruitful.
- God will make nations and kings come from Abraham.
- God will bless Sarah with a son.
- God will make Sarah a mother of nations.
- God will give a son that will be named Isaac.
- God will establish His covenant with Isaac.
- God tells the specific time of Isaac's birth.

**12:1-3**<sup>2</sup> *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.*

**12:7** *Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

**13:14-16** *And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are-- northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, [then] your descendants also could be numbered.*

**15:4-6** *And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

**15:18** *On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates*

**17:5-6** *No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.*

**17:15-19** *Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah [shall be] her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a [mother of] nations; kings of peoples shall be from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall [a child] be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear [a child]?" And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!" 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.*

**18:10-12** *And He 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.) Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; [and] Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"*

<sup>2</sup> For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

### 2. God Controls Conception to the Absurd

- Abraham thought it was hilarious – 17:15-19
  - Sarah thought it was ridiculous – 18:10-12
  - God thought it was no big deal – 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."

**Rom 4:16-22**<sup>16</sup> *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<sup>17</sup> (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations ") in the presence of Him whom he believed-- God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;<sup>18</sup> who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."<sup>19</sup> And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.<sup>20</sup> He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,<sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.<sup>22</sup> And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

<p><sup>3</sup> And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him -- whom Sarah bore to him -- Isaac.</p>	<p><b>3. Abram <u>Names</u> His Son Isaac</b> 17:19a Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac..."</p>
<p><sup>4</sup> Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.</p>	<p><b>4. Abraham Keeps the <u>Covenant</u> Sign</b></p>
<p><sup>5</sup> Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.</p>	<p><b>5. Abraham's Age Confirms God's <u>Power</u></b></p>
<p><sup>6</sup> And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, <i>and</i> all who hear will laugh with me." <sup>7</sup> She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne <i>him</i> a son in his old age."</p>	<p><b>6. Sarah Revels in God's <u>Power</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God made her laugh</li> <li>• Others will see &amp; laugh</li> <li>• She is holding "laughter"</li> </ul>
<p><sup>8</sup> So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.</p>	<p><b>7. Isaac Is <u>Weaned</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isaac is possibly 3 or 4 years old</li> </ul>
<p><sup>9</sup> And Sarah <b>saw</b> the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. <sup>10</sup> Therefore she <b>said</b> to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, <i>namely</i> with Isaac."</p>	<p><b>8. Sarah <u>Complains</u> of Ishmael's Scoffing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What she saw: <u>scoffing</u></li> <li>• What she said: no <u>joint heir</u></li> </ul>
<p><sup>11</sup> And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son.</p>	<p><b>9. Abraham Wrestles with Sarah's <u>Demand</u></b></p>
<p><sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called. <sup>13</sup> "Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he <i>is</i> your seed."</p>	<p><b>10. God <u>Directs</u> Abraham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ishmael= 14 years old (86 at his birth – 16:16)</li> <li>• Ishmael would become a great nation</li> <li>• Ishmael would be blessed and beget 12 princes (17:20)</li> </ul>
<p><sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting <i>it</i> on her shoulder, he gave <i>it</i> and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba.</p>	<p><b>11. Abraham <u>Sends</u> Hagar &amp; Ishmael Away</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No <u>provision</u> but bread and a skin of water</li> <li>• No <u>plan</u> – she departed and wandered</li> </ul>
<p><sup>15</sup> And the water in the skin was used up, and she placed the boy under one of the shrubs. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down across from <i>him</i> at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite <i>him</i>, and lifted her voice and wept.</p>	<p><b>12. Hagar <u>Weeps</u> in Despair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They ran out of water</li> <li>• Hagar placed Ishmael under a shrub</li> <li>• Hagar wept</li> </ul>
<p><sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he <i>is</i>. <sup>18</sup> "Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation." <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.</p>	<p><b>13. God <u>Comforts</u> &amp; Provides for Hagar &amp; Ishmael</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God heard Hagar</li> <li>• God heard the voice of the lad</li> <li>• God reminds her of His promise (16:10)</li> <li>• God shows them water</li> </ul>
<p><sup>20</sup> So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. <sup>21</sup> He dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.</p>	<p><b>14. God <u>Cares</u> for Ishmael</b></p>
<p><b>NOT COVERING vv 22-34:</b> <sup>22</sup> And it came to pass at that time that Abimelech and Pichol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, "God <i>is</i> with you in all that you do. <sup>23</sup> "Now therefore, swear to me by God that you will not deal falsely with me, with my offspring, or with my posterity; but that according to the kindness that I have done to you, you will do to me and to the land in which you have dwelt." <sup>24</sup> And Abraham said, "I will swear." <sup>25</sup> Then Abraham rebuked Abimelech because of a well of water which Abimelech's servants had seized. <sup>26</sup> And Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor had I heard <i>of it</i> until today." <sup>27</sup> So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant. <sup>28</sup> And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves. <sup>29</sup> Then Abimelech asked Abraham, "What <i>is the meaning of</i> these seven ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?" <sup>30</sup> And he said, "You will take <i>these</i> seven ewe lambs from my hand, that they may be my witness that I have dug this well." <sup>31</sup> Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there. <sup>32</sup> Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba. So Abimelech rose with Pichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines. <sup>33</sup> Then <i>Abraham</i> planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. <sup>34</sup> And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days.</p>	