

First Southern Baptist Church - 1-22-20
Isaac and Hagar - Genesis 21:1-8, 9-21

Introduction

1. Reap what you sow
2. Yet, God works it out
3. God is not bound by man's sin

I. Isaac is Born - 1-8

1. Anticipation becomes reality
2. Miraculous births:
 - to Sarah
 - to Hannah (Samuel's mom)
 - to Samson's mom
 - to Elizabeth (John the Baptist's mom)

By giving miraculous births... it shows that God is involved, and prepares us to believe in THE miraculous birth (the virgin birth) and incarnation of Jesus
3. A banquet celebrating the weaning of the child (8)
4. Naming of the child:
 - appropriate for their joy
 - Sarah's doubting laughter has been changed into rejoicing
 - "Isaac" means laughter
5. God has broken the hold of death, hopelessness and barrenness
6. The older son "mocks" - or "snickers" (9)
7. God does not work until natural things are made an end of - Sarah was dead

II. Quickly there is Conflict - 9-11

1. An instant rival
2. "Mock" is "*sahaq*" and can mean
 - snicker
 - caressing (26:8)
 - entertain (21:6)
3. That "slave woman"
4. She refuses to admit that Ishmael is Abraham's son
5. Sarah takes offense at child's play?
 - she sees in the derision a foreshadowing of strife between brothers
 - compare with Jacob and Esau and Joseph and his brothers
6. Inheritance becomes a reality - will not be "heir" (10)
7. The thing was grievous to Abraham - he loved Ishmael
 - the story tells of the tension between the chosen one and the non-chosen one
 - one is treasured, and one is chosen
8. The results of man's "plans"
9. Isaac's coming aroused opposition and conflict (9) - his coming manifested the true colors of Ishmael
10. One is the product of nature, one is the gift of God
 - you don't improve the old nature, you receive the new nature

11. Conflict came from the fundamental rift between the natural and the spiritual

See Gal. 4:21-31

A. Hagar/ Ishmael - the children of Mt. Sinai (law controls man)

-this is the fate of the natural man

-a child gotten of skill, and determination and planning

-this is the best that natural striving can do

B. Sarah/ Isaac - the child of Mt. Zion (gift changes man)

-the kingdom of God is gift, not law

-the promise that leads to Jesus, that comes through Jesus

III. God Advises Abraham - 12-13

1. Comfort is that he is carry out Sarah's wishes

2. Promises to take care of his son - Ishmael

3. God's choice

Chooses Isaac over Ishmael, but blesses both

Isaac was blessed to be a blessing, not an end in itself

4. Sarah's concern is there be conflict, and the inheritance

-God's concern is the divine blessing

5. The promise of blessing through Abraham was honored by God - in verse 13, Ishmael was a blessed person, and from him came nations

-God promised Abraham to bless his seed, and to bless those who bless you (Gen. 12)

IV. Hagar and Ishmael Leave - 14-16

1. In both Mt Moriah and here Abraham dutifully carries out the plan he is given

-trusting God to make it work

2. They "wandered" - same word used for the wandering of Abraham (14)

V. God Rescues Ishmael - 17-21

1. Supernaturally provided for this first son - a well in the desert

-the well has been there all along... but she is not able to see it

-in chapter 22, there is a ram in the bushes, but Abraham does not see it until God reveals it

2. Fear not, I have heard your cry

3. God's grace extends to outsiders

VI. Principles

1. God is not limited by barrenness or who is the "eldest"

-everything depends on the power and loyalty of the promise-maker

2. God does not give Isaac, till every way of man has failed - in the fullness of time, God gave his son, Jesus

3. When the Holy Spirit comes into our heart, it awakens the old man, and conflict begins

-the new nature drives out the old