GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

GOD'S PRESENCE IS THE DIFFERENCE

GENESIS 21:1-21 (Part 1)

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Abraham’s worship of God for His promise fulfilled

Abraham’s worship of God in obedience, even in his grief over Ishmael

Abraham’s worship of God in His repentant faith in God and in His goodness

Genesis 12:1-4

“’I promise to show you the working out of my power in your life so that there will be no mistake that I did it.’” *(James Dixon paraphrasing God)*

God is doing it!

“This is the painful part of loving God. I want my love to present me with pleasant moments, with good feelings and a sense of security. I do not want my love to present me with questions, with testing, with insecurity. Why does God’s love inflict us with such pain?” *(James Dixon)*

<u>Three sections</u> highlighting God's blessings and Abraham's responses of worship and obedience:

Abraham's worship of God in Isaac's birth

Abraham's worship of God in separating from Ishmael

Abraham's worship of God in His covenant with Abimelech

I. **Abraham's worship of God in <u>Isaac's</u> birth** (Gen. 21:1-8)

Chiasm = a literary device to show emphasis in the text:

A. *Then the Lord took note…*

B. *of Sarah…*

C. ***<u>as He had said</u>...***

C. *<u>as He had promised</u>*.

B. *for Sarah…*

A. *and the Lord did…*

I. **Abraham's worship of God in <u>Isaac's</u> birth** (Gen. 21:1-8)

*"But [Jesus] answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live on Bread alone, but on **<u>every word</u>** that proceeds out of the mouth of God."* (Matt 4:4)

*"**<u>Your word</u>** is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn and I will confirm it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances."* (Ps. 119:105-106)

I. **Abraham's worship of God in Isaac's birth** (Gen. 21:1-8)

There is no win in sin.

The **antidote**: we gain **clarity** and **godly perspective** for **daily worship** when we live by the **wisdom** of God.

I. Abraham's worship of God in Isaac's birth (Gen. 21:1-8)

II. Abraham's worship of God in separating from Ishmael (Gen. 21:9-21)

"***Mocking***" *(shq)* = to laugh or joke; to have sport with or to toy with; to bully

What does God do with all this?

God guides Abraham in how to minister to Sarah, how to do right by Hagar and Ishmael, and God comforts him in his grief about what God will have him do.

"*greatly* ***distressed***" = **to be or to do evil**, or **to treat badly**. In this form, it means that this is having **a very hard and deeply grievous effect** on Abraham. It pains his very soul.

II. Abraham's worship of God in separating from <u>Ishmael</u> (Gen. 21:9-21)

"Sometimes it is necessary for God's people, if they are truly going to be in the will of God [obedient] and to enjoy the fulness of His blessing, to **<u>separate completely</u>** from those who might be a source of **<u>friction</u>** and **<u>carnality</u>**, even though such separation will be difficult and will give others (who don't understand the spiritual issues involved) occasion to criticize and ridicule." *(Henry Morris)*

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