

Genesis 21-23
“The Life of Faith”

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: **“The Life of Faith.”**

~ INTRO ~

OK... LET'S KICK THIS STUDY OFF...

- By remembering the big picture we have seen so far.
 1. God created the heavens & the earth... (Gen. 1-2)
 - And all that is in them... AND it was good!
 2. Man was tempted to disobey God & sin entered the world (Gen. 3).
 - Fellowship with God was broken.
 3. Sin spread in Adams family and Cain killed his brother Abel (Gen. 4).
 4. (Gen. 5) Death spread to all mankind.
 5. God destroyed the earth & all living things in it (Gen. 6-8).
 - One family was saved from the flood – Noah.
 6. God used this chosen family – Noah re-populated the earth (Gen. 9).
 7. Later... God chose Abraham to start a “called out” nation – Israel...
 - (Gen. 12 – current – Chp. #21)

NOW...

- Today in Chp. #21 we read of the birth of the promised son – Isaac...
 - Who is born miraculously to Abraham at 100-yrs old.

IDEA #1 – PROMISE FULFILLED: (Gen. 21)

READ (vv.1-3)

- I love how God has a way of underscoring the fulfillment of His word.
 - In these opening verses we see that God was faithful to His word!

HOW DOES THAT HELP US TODAY?

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BECAUSE THE BIBLE...

- Is a record of God's promises & fulfillments.
 - (Rom. 10:17) NKJV

AS WE GET TO KNOW THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE...

- Our hearts are turned away from superstitious religion...
 - AND toward the knowable personhood of God!
 - We are the chosen friends of God.

(James 2:23) NKJV

- *Abraham the friend of God*

(John 15:14-15) NKJV

- *You and me friends of God*

(Gen. 21:4)...

- Abraham fulfilling the voluntary responsibility of man – obedience.
 - Flip back to (Gen. 17:9-14).
 - We love God because He first loved us!

NOW...

- They named the son of promise – Isaac = laughter.
 - (Gen. 18:12-14) NKJV

(Gen. 21:9-20)...

- We have a picture of blended family challenges...
 - As adults fight about their children.
 - God told Abraham to side with his current wife – Sarah.

IN THE END...

- Let's just take away a simple principal.
 - (Gen. 21:13)... God was going to take care of & bless Ismael...
 - Because he was Abraham's son.

(1 Cor. 7:12-16) Direction for mixed marriages (believer / unbeliever)...

- And the impacts on children.
 - The key take away is (1 Cor. 7:14) NLT

LAST OBSERVATION...

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- (Gen. 21:33) Abraham continued to call on God...
 - Thru the ups & downs of life.

IDEA #2 – SURRENDERING ALL: (Gen. 22)

(v.1) is the **key** to following the unfolding scene.

- “*God tested Abraham.*”

IN (Heb. 11:17-19) NKJV

- We understand that Abraham was living differently...
 - Because he trusted God!
 - And this test was walked out by faith.

NOW YOUR TRIAL OR TESTING...

- Might look different than Abraham's.
 - Yet we get perspective in the N.T. for end of age living.
 - (James 5:8-11) NKJV.

(Gen. 22:2)...

- God tells Abraham to take his son to Mt. Moriah...
 - Which is about 45-miles north of Beersheba (Gen. 21:33).

ABRAHAM WAS TAKING STEPS OF FAITH...

- God asked him to do something that did not make sense.
 - But Abraham obeyed God.

READ THE STORY (vv.1-14) NKJV.

LET'S MENTION THAT ISAAC...

- Is not a little child here.
 - Rather he's about 25-years old (Abraham 125-yrs old).

NOW...

- In biblical *typology* there's an underlying storyline here...
 - With three key ideas:

a) ISAAC IS A “TYPE” OF CHRIST...

- Meaning he was obedient to the point of death (Phil. 2:5-8) NKJV.

b) ABRAHAM IS A “TYPE” OF THE FATHER...

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- Who did not spare His own Son (Rom. 8:31-32) NKJV.
- c) The RAM is a “TYPE” of substitution... like Jesus the sacrificial Lamb of God (Heb. 10:10) NKJV.

THE CHAPTER ENDS...

- With God blessing Abraham (v.18).

IDEA #3 – DEATH OF A SPOUSE: (Gen. 23)

TIME PASSES...

- And the story line is moving forward.
 - Chapter #23 is about 12-yrs. after chapter #22.

AND IT STARTS WITH...

- The death of Abraham’s wife – Sarah.
 - She was 127-yrs old.
 - And her son Isaac was about 37-yrs old.

WE READ THAT ABRAHAM...

- Buys a plot of land with a cave in the area of Hebron (v.19).

TODAY WE KNOW...

- That Hebron is about 19-miles south of Jerusalem...
 - In the West Bank area...
 - And this traditional burial site is recognized by...
 - Both Judaism & Islam....

THE LOCATION CAN BE VISITED AND IS KNOWN AS...

- “The Tomb of the Patriarchs”
 - Abraham & Sarah
 - Jacob & Leah

Show Pic here

~ IN CLOSING ~

MAY YOU BE ENCOURAGED...

- To trust God more as you learn about Him.