

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?**

Genesis 21-23  
“*The Life of Faith*”

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...

Genesis 21-23  
“*The Life of Faith*”

- (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...

Genesis 21-23  
“*The Life of Faith*”

- 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.