

CGYG & LIFE Bible Study – Genesis 20-21

Read Genesis 20:1-18

-What did Abraham do with Sarah, and why? (see also Genesis 12:10-20)

-With all the promises God had made to Abraham and all the dealings God had had with him, does it surprise you that Abraham would fall again into the same sin he'd previously fallen into in Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20)?

-How did God deal with Abimelech? Why do you think He intervened so directly? (you might also consider Gen. 18:10 & 21:1-2)

-How does Abimelech defend himself before God? Is this always an adequate defense? (see also Romans 2:12-15; 1 Corinthians 4:4; Jeremiah 17:9)

-What is the irony of Abraham's prayer for Abimelech?

Read Genesis 21:1-7

-What does the birth of Isaac teach us about God? (you might also consider Matthew 5:18; Romans 4:17-21 with Luke 1:36-37; Psalm 30:11-12)

Read Genesis 21:8-21

-Why did Sarah want to send Hagar & Ishmael away?

-How did Abraham respond, and why? How did his response differ from his previous dealings with Sarah & Hagar in Genesis 16:1-6?

-What do we learn about God through His provision for Hagar and Ishmael?

-What does this passage about Hagar & Ishmael and Sarah & Isaac teach us about salvation?

-Galatians 4:21 - 5:6 – What is the contrast between Hagar/Ishmael and Sarah/Isaac, and what does this teach us?

-Romans 9:6-12

Read Genesis 21:22-34

-Why did Abimelech seek to make a treaty with Abraham, despite what Abraham had done to him previously? (cf. Matthew 5:16)

Aliens and strangers in the world

We learn much about God by observing the lives of Abraham and his family. In His protection of Sarah from Abimelech, in His provision of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah, and in His care for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert, we see God's faithfulness to accomplish fully all that He has promised. In Sarah's giving birth to a son at the age of ninety, we see God's omnipotence, as well as His love and mercy, as the One who turns sorrow into joy. In the sending away of Hagar and Ishmael, we learn of His sovereignty over salvation, as the one who chooses and calls us out of bondage to freedom in Christ. So powerful was the evidence of God's work in the life Abraham that Abimelech was compelled to seek him out, in spite of what Abraham had done to him previously in deceiving him with respect to Sarah.

What is your life telling others about who God is? Are you letting your light shine before men, so that they are compelled to glorify God because of you? Or is God's Name 'blasphemed among the Gentiles' because of you (Romans 2:24)? Commit yourself to "let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matt 5:16)