

Genesis 21

1 Even though she laughed at his words, He still did the miracle she was afraid to believe could happen. Gracious is the Lord to Sarah and to you and me.

2,3 Isaac means "he laughs" - Is that God having the last laugh?

4,5 Romans 4:19-21

6 When I laughed in doubt, God's grace was greater and turned that doubting laugh to a joyful laugh.

7 –9 Ishmael is around thirteen. In jealousy of the one who is taking all that was going to be his - mocks his baby half brother. This is the beginning of a rivalry that has never ended.

10 Galatians 4:22-31 What is the spiritual picture? Would you have seen it if the Apostle Paul had not written about it? How did he see it?

11 Abraham loves both boys, but he loves Sarah too.

12 Concurrence: God uses the evil of Sarah and the mocking of Ishmael to bless the world. God solved the dilemma by speaking clearly to Abraham. Often the clear voice of God in our heart is the only way out of a 'catch 22.'

13,14 Abraham believes God will keep his word and care for them. That was an act of faith too.

15 –17 Don't forget what you named him. God sees your misery.

18 –21 She was Egyptian, so his seed would be 3/4 Egyptian.

22 People see the blessing of God on a life and want a part of it. You can't see the object of faith but all can certainly see its effect.

23 –29 Notice 'as an alien' in 23. A save-face resolution, take payment for the well, even though I dug it.

30 –34 The LORD, the Eternal God. *JHWH Olam El*