

descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt *kindly* with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned.”

V. Conclusion

- A. Look to God and away from yourself
- B. God’s plan is always better than our plan
- C. Joy will come to us through Jesus

Revelation 7:9-10

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Hebrews 12:25

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.

Genesis 20-21
Trusting in God’s Steadfast Love
May 16, 2010
Sermon Outline

Notes

I. God’s Steadfast Love

- A. Heseb

Exodus 34:6-7

“The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in *steadfast love* and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping *steadfast love* for thousands...

Genesis 39:21

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him *steadfast love* and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Genesis 40:14

Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the *kindness* to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.

Genesis 19:19

Behold, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have shown me *great kindness* in saving my life.

- B. The Promises to Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And *I will make of you a great nation*, and *I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.* ³ *I will bless those who bless you*, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and *in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*” (Genesis 15, 17)

Key Idea

Trust in the steadfast love of God alone!

II. Do not trust in Your Own Righteousness

A. Abraham's Besetting Sin Threatens God's Promise

Genesis 20:1-2, 11, 13

From there (Cf. Gen. 19:27-28) Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. ² And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. ... ¹¹ Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife. ... ¹³ And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, He is my brother.' "

B. God's Steadfast Love (Genesis 12:3)

1. Rescuing Sarah, Blessing Abraham

Genesis 20:3, 7

But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." ... ⁷ Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

2. The Birth of Laughter: God's Plan is Better than Our Plans!

Genesis 21:1-7

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. (Cf. Gen. 12:2; 15:5; 17:6-7, 15-21; 18:10) ² And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which

God had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. ⁴ And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." (Cf. Genesis 17:17; 18:12) ⁷ And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

III. God's Children are Always Miraculously Born

A. Laughing at the Feast (21:9)

B. Why does God Have Ishmael Sent Away?

Genesis 21:12

¹² But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for **through Isaac shall your offspring be named.**

Romans 9:7-8

...not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ⁸ *This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.*

C. Heard for the Sake of Abraham

(21:13, 17-19; Cf. Genesis 17:20)

D. We too should put our trust in God's chosen servant!

IV. God's Mercy toward Abimelech

Genesis 21:22-23

²² At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, "God is with you in all that you do. ²³ Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my