

Genesis Chapter 21

Ge 21:1-7 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken...

Not only does the Lord open and close the womb, he caused a 90 year old woman to bear a child, wean that child, and enjoy the experience. Sarah now laughed with joy rather than cynicism and said the following in **vs.6**, "...God hath made me to laugh, so that **all that hear will laugh with me.**" Sarah would no longer hide in the tent and mock under her breath (**18:9,12**) but purposed to declare God's goodness to all that would hear. She went on to say in **vs.7**, "... **Who would have said** unto Abraham, that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have born him a son in his old age." Of course, this was a rhetorical question with the purpose of giving glory to God. We might learn to do the same and give glory to God rather than fate, luck, or chance.

Ge 21:8-9 And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned. **9** And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.

One would think that such a miraculous birth would be enough to convince Ishmael that he should serve his younger brother, but instead we find him mocking. **Gal.4:29** references this but uses the word - persecuted.

But lest we marvel at the defiance of Ishmael, we are reminded that Jesus himself was, and is, despised and rejected of men despite his miraculous birth, his miraculous life, and his miraculous rising from the dead.

Ge 21:10-11 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. **11** And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

As in **Gen.16**, Sarah spoke her mind once again, only this time it was of the Lord. As a matter of fact, she spoke scripture according to **Gal 4:30**, "Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." And unlike before, her request is confirmed by God (*see vs.12*).

Ge 21:12-13 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; **for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.** **13** And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because **he is thy seed.**

These two verses should be sufficient to prove Islam as a cult. Not only is God in favor of casting out the "bondwoman and her son" (*Ishmael's name is not even used in the verse*), but Abraham's seed will be "called" through Isaac.

Nevertheless, Ishmael will become a nation, not because he is blessed, but because his father is blessed. God allows vessels of dishonour to exist for the glory of God, **Rom.9:17-23**. Of course, allowing these vessels to exist is an act of mercy and benevolence on the part of God, granting the opportunity for repentance (**Rom.2:4**, **2Pet.3:15**, **Ps 107:8**).

Ge 21:14 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, **and took bread, and a bottle of water**, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

Verse eleven tells us that Abraham was very grieved by this. After all, Ishmael was his firstborn son and he's been told to abandon him. In the beginning he was asked to leave his father's house. In the next chapter he will be asked to sacrifice Isaac. We can begin to see why Abraham is known as the father of faith.

Not only did Abraham obey God regarding Ishmael, but he basically sent him and his mother out empty handed.

Ge 21:15-19 And **the water was spent** in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs...

The literal interpretation of the passage requires little explanation, but the spiritual interpretation bears examination. Ishmael was cast out for mocking God's plan (*perhaps with the help of his mother*) and was reduced to a loaf of bread and a single bottle of water (teenagers often think too highly of themselves while taking of the goodness of their parents). As a result, he and his mother were at the point of death within a matter of days (*be careful what you wish for*). Hagar wept in despair, but Ishmael likely hearkened back to the instruction of his father and called out to God for mercy (**Pr.1:8**). Verse 17 says that God heard his voice "**where he is**" (*just as he did the prodigal son*). He then opened the blinded eyes of Hagar and revealed a well of water that was near the entire time (**vs.19**). Hagar wisely accepted God's grace rather than rely on her own ability to find water as she did in **Ge.16:7**.

Ge 21:20-21 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and **became an archer.** **21** And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt.

Just as Nimrod and Esau (*types of anti-christ*), Ishmael started a nation and became an archer/hunter. Of the 23 times hunt and hunter appear in scripture, most all of them are negative (**Ge.10:9**, **25:27**, **27:5,30**, **Lev.17:13**, **1Sam.24:11**, **26:20**, **Job 10:16**, **38:39**, **Ps.140:11**, **Pr.6:5,26**, **12:27** **Jer.16:16**, **La.4:18**, **Eze.13:18,20,21**, **Mic.7:2**). **1Pe 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: **Eph 6:16** Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.