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HCCL

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Back To The Beginning - Genesis

Living in accord with God's purposes

"The God Who Keeps His Promise" - Abraham to Isaac

Genesis 21:1-25:19

Good Morning! Welcome to Harvest. I invite you to open your Bible's to **Genesis 17:19-21** and follow along as I read the text.

Genesis 17:19-21 (ESV) 19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. 20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. 21 But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you **at this time next year.**"

Let's Pray -

Introduction:

Genesis 17:19-21 establishes the contest for the life of Isaac, and God's faithfulness to Abraham and Sarah. God's path of redemption is now moving from Abraham to Isaac and soon it will move from Isaac to Jacob, and ultimately from Jacob to Jesus, our precious Savior.

Genesis 21:1-7 (ESV) 1 The LORD visited Sarah **as he had said**, and the LORD did to Sarah **as he had promised.** 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." 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."

Isaac's birth and Isaac's life is the fulfillment of God's covenant promise, "as God had said, and...as he has promised." In this story the very name "Isaac" is a declaration of God's ability to bring

laughter out of bareness, provision for his people and to see his people through difficult tests and seasons of waiting.

1. The God of Fulfillment (Genesis 21)

Summary: After 25 years of waiting, God visits Sarah and Abraham, fulfilling His promise with the birth of Isaac. This chapter reveals and highlight that God's timing is perfect. His power brings "laughter" (joy) where there was once doubt and barrenness.

From the heart and mind of the apostle Paul God speaks his truth to those who have trusted in Jesus regarding God's faithfulness:

***Romans 9:6-11** (ESV) But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and 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.** 9 For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." 10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—**in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls.**¹

God's promise and God's process are both miraculous realities. Only God can bring about a new born child through a 90 yr old woman and 100 yr old man. Only God can bring redemption to those chosen in the specific way He decides, through faith in his only Son Jesus Christ.

Life Point: God is faithful to His Word, even when it seems impossible. Our hope must be anchored in His character, not just the timing of the blessing.

Acts 13:26-33 (ESV) 26 "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. 27 For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. 28 And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. 32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, **33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus,**

¹ * **Bolded words are highlighted by me for emphasis**

Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV) 4 **But when the fullness of time had come**, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

God's promise is hope of eternal life, in his one and only Son Jesus Christ, to all who embrace it through repentance of sin and faith, in Christ and his work on the cross! This message comes in God's perfect time to all whom he calls.

God's promise is never made by mistake and never received by accident! As **Gen 21:1** "as he said,...and as he had promised."

2. The God of Provision (Genesis 22)

God not only makes and fulfills the promise he provides the means, or the way for the promise to become reality. He is the God who provides.

Summary: Abraham faces the ultimate test of faith: being asked to offer Isaac, the very promise he waited for, on Mount Moriah. Abraham obeys, trusting God, and at the last moment, God stops him, providing a ram as a substitute.

The key verse in this chapter is **Genesis 22:8** (ESV) "Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together."

It is this provision that John the Baptist is referring to when he declares in **John 1:29** (ESV) "The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Isaac is destined for death, as a test of Abraham's trust in God's promise. God's promised hope and redemption rests on his provision. Would God provide as Abraham believed?

The apostle Peter says it this way, **1 Peter 1:17-21** (ESV) 17 And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, 18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 20 He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

God's assure the consumption of his promise is provided in the giving of a substitute, the Ram for Isaac and Jesus for those who trust in God's Son.

Isaiah 53:7 (ESV) 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

And probably the most famous verse in the book of Isaiah.

**Isaiah 53:5 (ESV) 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.**

Life Point: God provides for our needs (He is "Jehovah-Jireh"- God our provider) and he tests our faith not to break us, but to show that He is worthy of our total trust and obedience.

3. The God of the Future (Genesis 23-25:19)

Summary: Following Sarah's death, Abraham acts in faith to secure the burial site at Machpelah, a down payment on the Promised Land. The narrative then ensures the promise continues through Isaac, who receives a wife (Rebekah) in chapter 24 and eventually witnesses the birth of Jacob and Esau in chapter 25.

The future of God's people is anchored in a promise of a wife for Isaac

Genesis 24:6-7 (ESV) 6 Abraham said to him, "See to it that you do not take my son back there. 7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your offspring I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

The future of God's people is anchored in the fulfilled promise of a son born to Isaac

Genesis 25:21 (ESV) 21 And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Life Point: God's purpose transcends generations time and people. Even when the original promise-bearers pass away, God continues to build His covenant family, through his Son, Jesus Christ, ensuring the future promise is secured.

What do we learn and how do we live what we've learn out, before the Lord and before the world?

Putting God's word into action:

- God's word calls us to **trust His timing**, even in long seasons of waiting.
- God's faithfulness calls us to believe that **God will provide** a way, even in the hardest trials.
- God's sovereignty encourages us to **live for the long-term promises of God**, knowing He is managing the future.