**Origins (pt.2) - wk 12 – Finally!**

**The LORD called an unlikely wanderer – fast forward, Abe is now growing in his walk with the LORD and settled in Canaan.**

**We have seen some ups and downs of Abe’s life.**

**The 25-year promise**

**Genesis 21:1 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 (100 yrs old) at the time of which God had spoken to him.**

**But this was not his first son. Thirteen years earlier, Abe attempted to fulfill what God promised on his own took another wife, Haggar. He has a son with her, Ishmael.**

**But God was clear that Ish was not to be the promised son. It was to be with Sarah. Chap 21 happens 13 years after Ishamel.**

**3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. (Isaac = laughter and joy) 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. (that is a miracle!)**

**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.” (Not only have a baby but able to nurse – she was 90! Now you know why his name is giggles).**

**This was a pretty short narrative for the 2nd greatest promise in the Bible (Jesus the 1st). Something they had been waiting for 25 years! 7 verses then a fast forward 3+ years.**

**Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away – A major family feud.**

**8 The child grew and was weaned, (2 to 3 yrs old) and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. (step towards manhood) 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking,**

**Ishmael was scoffing – laughing at – ridiculing Isaac. He was not innocent. He mocked and rejected the promise of God.**

**(Sarah pulls Abe aside) 10 and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” (That boy is not getting a penny! He has got to go!) 11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. (he loves Ishmael – he was 15-16 yrs old – they are 13/14 years apart) 12 But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. 13 I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.” (Don’t worry about Ishmael focus on Isaac - the son of promise)**

**14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.**

**(Describe the scene) His wife and son walking into the desert.**

**15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. (remember he is upper teens) 16 Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, (100 yards) for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she began to sob. (ready to die)**

**She can’t see Ish – but who can? The LORD.**

**And God had promised that He would take care of them.**

**17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. (Hey, what’s the matter? Why would he ask that? Where has he been? Oh yeah, this is a repeat of Gen 16.)**

**Remember his name? Ishmael's name means – God hears.**

**18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” 19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So, she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.**

**Imagine that moment… Crying – dehydrated – dying.**

**The LORD shows up – you will live, I hear your son.**

**Then God gave her eyes to see the water - near all along.**

**20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. (hunter - not a shepherd) 21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.**

**He married an Egyptian like his mother – he became part of the descendants and nations of the Middle East.**

**This major event in Genesis 21 is mentioned throughout the NT.**

**Acts / Galatians / Romans / Hebrews – and referenced in James.**

**What can we take away from this? Why is this so important?**

**7 Lessons and Promises From the Family Feud**

**1. If God said it – bank on it.**

**This means it’s secure and in the bank. It is safe and guarded.**

**Genesis 21:1 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.**

**Just as he said, just as he promised, just as he has spoken.**

**12 times in this passage - God is directing the story.**

* **The promise was not fulfilled because Abraham was perfect in his obedience but because God is perfect in His Word.**

**What God says about marriage, children, dating, my sexuality, my money, treating people, my lifestyle – you can bank on it.**

**If God said it – it will work, guaranteed. God’s word never fails.**

**Abe saw God’s promise (Isaac) and knew God was totally trustworthy (next wk, 10th final test of Abe). This was the first sacrifice of a son - Ishmael.**

**Though faced with a difficult decision – the next morning, he immediately obeyed. He did not hesitate. He was trusting God.**

**2. God is always right on time**

**For Abe & Sarah (the baby) Isaac was born right when God planned it.**

**For Ismael & Haggar (the water) Provision was right there!**

**He is told for 25 years that he would father a nation. God could have given them a son in his earlier years – why didn’t He?**

**Why did God wait until it was impossible? God was showing his power (not Abe & Sarah) - it was God alone who did this!**

**Stated again and again in scripture – He is the God of the impossible.**

**Hebrews 11:11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.**

**What about my family/marriage, it didn’t work! Know this - God is in control – he knows what is happening. His plan is at work.**

**God hears and answers every prayer you make. Yes / No / wait**

**We may not like the answer – be he answers.**

**Psalm 30:1 I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me. 2 O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. 3 O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. 4 Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. 5 For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. (pain at God's allowance, but Joy is coming)**

**3. God’s plans are usually revealed one step at a time**

**God was maturing Abe and & Sarah and shaping this for 25 years.**

**We often want the whole thing – but we can’t handle it. God wants us to obey what we know and learn to trust him.**

**We want - the what, when, and how. But God often only tells us what. How & when is understood when we walk out the what.**

**Isaac was the result of obedience and trust in the LORD. His name reminds us that there is joy when we obey the commands of God.**

**God always does the right thing at the right time!**

**Even when things seem contradictory to the situation.**

**The paradoxes of scripture – furious opposites that confound reason.**

**We laugh with Sarah and weep with Hagar – in the same story.**

**Life is filled with the best of times and the worst of times: baby showers & funerals, new opportunities & lost friends, new exciting job & new difficult co-workers, a sense of God’s nearness in tragedy, a wedding day and hearing of a friend's lost marriage.**

**At the cross, we see both – love and wrath – grace and judgment - death and hope – heaven and hell. In pain we have God’s plan.**

**Romans 5:6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.**

**3. God’s provision is nearer than we realize.**

**God has already supplied – you just can’t see it. Trust the LORD.**

**We honor God with our life and integrity. We obey God’s word and struggle. (Two important ingredients). Then we look at our account, our family, marriage and wonder God how?**

**Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. // Psalm 34:10 - The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. // Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. // (Next) Gen 22:14 Abe calls God Yehovah Yireh (God provides)**

**4. God gives common grace to all people**

**This is a consistent theme in the Bible. But this grace is not salvation.**

**Comparison slide:**

* **Isaac (the Christian): Chosen = election - miraculous birth – acceptance by God – saving grace**
* **Ishmael (non-Christian): Not chosen = reprobation - no miracle, naturally born rejected by God concerning the inheritance – common grace**

**(Jesus) Matthew 4:5 For he (God) makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.**

**Laughter, kisses, hugs, family, children, happy moments, warm sunrises, fishing on a calm lake, sound of a stream, fun memories, wealth, music, good food, cold water on a hot day – this is God’s grace.**

**But this is not salvation. The saving grace of God is limited to those bow the knee to Christ as LORD. You need Jesus.**

**5. The flesh – must be dealt with.**

**Abrahm sending his son away may have seemed harsh, but this was the will of God. Their presence together would always be conflict.**

**Here is where the NT talks about this a lot.**

**Romans 9 talks about this.**

**(speaking to a church that was trying to live by the law and grace) Galatians 4:21 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? 22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. 23 His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise. (according to the promise)**

**24 These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai (place the law was given) and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. 25 Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia (Hagar represents bondage to works – her name lit means “hard pressed” stranger) and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. (Jerusalem, represented man’s efforts to reach God. BTW- the two bros are still fighting over that city) 26 But the Jerusalem that is above is free, (kingdom of heaven) and she is our mother.**

**28 Now you, brothers and sisters, (Believers in Jesus) like Isaac, are children of promise. 29 At that time the son born according to the flesh (Ish) persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. (Isaac) It is the same now. 30 But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” 31 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.**

**Haggar & Ishmael is a picture of flesh and self-sufficiency. They represent our efforts to reach God’s promise thru works.**

**Comparison slide:**

* **Ishmael - Born of the flesh**

**A self-sufficient hunter - Not a shepherd or a reliant farmer.**

**A son of Egypt – a man of sin that leads to bondage.**

**In fact, the next time we hear from his people (the Ishmaelites) is when Joseph is sold into slavery and taken to Egypt (Gen 37).**

**He represents our works and efforts to please God.**

* **Isaac - Born of the Spirit**

**A shepherd and farmer – caregiver.**

**A son of Cannan – freedom and promise. A son of grace and favor.**

**He represents the gospel and those miraculously born again.**

**The issue here is - A true and a false salvation – which path?**

**Road of Works: Abe and Hagar = Ishmael. Performance. Mt. Sinai = the Law (works) earthly Jerusalem = bondage, death (religion, false faiths)**

**Road of Grace: Abe and Sarah = Isaac Promise. Mt. Calvary = the Christ (grace) – new Jerusalem = freedom, life – (true faith)**

**2 stories about 2 families, 2 cities, 2 futures & 1 reality**

* **Relying on our works and efforts will never bring salvation**

**Christian formulas, penance, repetitive prayers, and efforts…**

**The Gospel is not a hybrid. Hybrid car – a little gas, plus electricity**

**Ish was the result of believing in God and ones own efforts – a hybrid = all it produced was a hard-pressed life of bondage.**

**Similarly, our battle with the flesh… the law and grace cannot coexist.**

**Galatians 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have (are) crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

* + **The flesh must be cast off – Ish was to be sent away.**
  + **The flesh – must be dealt with – swiftly before more conflict.**

**Le Miserable – 1989. The law (Javert) has been chasing for decades – but realized grace is powerful to change to man (Valjean). He lets the man go. “I tried to live my life without breaking a single rule.” But the law can’t reconcile mercy and grace – so he takes his life. As the man walks away, he cries with joy at death of the law – and his newfound freedom.**

**Romans 4:13-16 – Deals with this exhaustively.**

**Good news – the cross of Christ is the power that overs this!**

**What happens at salvation is nothing less than a supernatural birth**

**Ishmael was born naturally / Isaac was born supernaturally**

**Ishmael: what we try to do / Isaac: what God has done in Jesus**

**When we bow the knee to Christ – we are reborn miraculously**

**Hagar – name means stranger / sojourner / runner / traveler / homeless**

**Sarah – name means royalty (princess) Which is what we are in Christ**

**\*\* Don’t be a Hag**

**7. Jesus the living water is right in front of you.**

**And unless the LORD shows you, you will never see it.**

**Hagar did not realize God was there all along, until her eyes were opened by God.**

**Jesus is living water for the thirsty. Are you thirsty? Are you desperate? Do you the well? Do you see Jesus?**

**Gen 21:19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So, she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.**

**Not a sip, cup, or bucket – but a well. More than she should ever drink. More than enough. Jesus is more than enough!**

**John 4:13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”**

**John 7:37 …Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”**

**Seven promises of God in this short passage:**

**\*\*\* The LORD is trustworthy – He keeps his promises forever.**

**\*\*\* The LORD is powerful – He is able to do the impossible.**

**\*\*\* The LORD is faithful - He timing is perfect**

**\*\*\* The LORD is our provider – He is the God of more than enough**

**\*\*\* The LORD is gracious – He blesses even the lost**

**\*\*\* The LORD is Holy – He conquers the power of the flesh**

**\*\*\* The LORD is salvation – He is living water for the thirsty.**

**You can take that to the bank!**