

“Promises, Promises”  
Genesis 21

v. 1 Q. What is the connection between mercy, grace, and promise?

A. As with us, Sarah was \_\_\_\_\_ of God's kindness/love, but He keeps his promises.

Note: Rashi (Medieval Jewish commentator) says that this establishes the \_\_\_\_\_ of one who prays for mercy on behalf of another shall receive mercy himself. (E.g., Abraham's prayer for Abimelech and his household to once again conceive, led to Sarah conceive.) Cp. Matthew 5:7

v. 2 Q. What does this verse say about the promises of God?

- A.
1. They are specific in \_\_\_\_\_ detail.
  2. They are specific in \_\_\_\_\_. Cp. 18:14
  3. They will come to \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 3 Q. What is seen in Abraham naming his son Isaac (not what does his name mean but rather focusing on the act of Abraham). Cf. 17:19

- A.
1. Abraham is acting in \_\_\_\_\_ to a prior interaction with God.
  2. Abraham is \_\_\_\_\_ the covenant promise.

v. 4 Q. How is the last point of 3 connected to this verse?

A. Circumcision was to be Abraham's \_\_\_\_\_ in accepting the unilateral, unconditional, blood covenant of God – a covenant that would continue through \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 5 Q. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

A.

Q. And Ishmael?

A.

vv. 6-7 Q. What do the words of Sarah reveal?

A.

1. God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of my joy.
2. This will be a \_\_\_\_\_ joy.
3. Continued \_\_\_\_\_ in God's ability.

v. 8 Q. What is interesting to note about this event? Cp. 16:15

A. It says nothing about this with \_\_\_\_\_. Cp. 16:15

Note: Rashi says that this happened around \_\_\_\_\_ months.

Note: Rashi also notes that there was a great feast because the great men of that generation were present at it (Genesis Rabbah 53:10) — \_\_\_\_\_ [Melchizedek], \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Tanchuma Yashan, Vayishlach 23).

v. 9 Q. What conflict arose from this?

A. \_\_\_\_\_ was causing big brother problems with Isaac.

Note: The word for “mocking” can be translated, “scoffing,” or “making sport of.” But it is actually a play on words. It can also mean, “\_\_\_\_\_.” Isaac means “\_\_\_\_\_”; Ishmael is laughing at him.

Q. How does the Galatians 4:21-31 give further understanding to this mocking?

A. Ishmael was probably mocking /persecuting Isaac over \_\_\_\_\_ inheritance rights. Little did he know...

v. 10 Q. What was Sarah's solution? Cp. 16:6

A. Sarah's \_\_\_\_\_ is to get rid of her once and for all.

v. 11 Q. How did Abraham's attitude change toward Ishmael?

A. The son that he was \_\_\_\_\_ about in 16 has now become a beloved son.

vv. 12-13 Q. What did God do to alleviate this stress?

- A.
1. \_\_\_\_\_ to Sarah.
  2. Isaac is the \_\_\_\_\_ divine line.
  3. Ishmael will still be divinely \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 14 Q. What must have been the human condition of Abraham's heart at this moment?

Broken. Distraught. Knowing full well that they would not have enough \_\_\_\_\_ . [from a human perspective, certain \_\_\_\_\_]

Note: The desert of Beersheba was heading south to \_\_\_\_\_. The place where Hagar was born and reared.

vv. 15-16 Q. What happened to Hagar and Ishmael?

A. A. They ran out of water and thought that death was \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 17 Q. What do we learn about God from this account?

A. God is compassionate and cares for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 18 Q. What does God do for Hagar? Cf. 16:10

A. God \_\_\_\_\_ his former promise to her – that Ishmael will be the father of a great nation.

v. 19 Q. Reread Genesis 16:7ff. What is similar?

A. Both of her encounters with God were connected to water and to future promises. [\_\_\_\_\_ for the body and soul]

vv. 20-21 Q. What do these verses tell us about the promise made to Hagar?

A. God \_\_\_\_\_ his promises to a slave and looked with favor on those who would become the \_\_\_\_\_ of his people.

v. 22 Q. What is the reputation of Abraham with his neighbors?

A. A divine hand of \_\_\_\_\_ is on Abraham based on his \_\_\_\_\_.

vv. 23-24 Q. What is the significance of this?

These Philistine leaders recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ of this foreigner and his god, so they make a political \_\_\_\_\_ with him.

Note: \_\_\_\_\_ verbal treaty.

vv. 25-26 Q. What did Abraham address as part of this verbal agreement?

A. Abraham addresses a current \_\_\_\_\_ that will indicate if these men can be trusted.

vv. 27-32 Q. What does Abraham do to cement the deal?

A. Abraham brought a gift, that if accepted would \_\_\_\_\_ a formal \_\_\_\_\_/treaty between the two individuals.

Note: Beersheba means "well of oath or well of \_\_\_\_\_. It will become one of the most important places next to Jerusalem.

v. 33 Q. What do we see Abraham doing?

A.  
1. Planted a living \_\_\_\_\_.  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord

v. 34 Q. What was the result of God's grace?

A. He lived in \_\_\_\_\_ in the land.

Application questions:

Q. Read Romans 9:7-9. How is the idea of "election" born out?

A.

Q. How do we reconcile a God who seems to choose one over another when he is not supposed to be a respecter of persons?

A.

Q. How should we personally respond to the world's mocking of our faith?

A.

Q. What would it look like for an unbeliever to say, "God is with you in all you do"?

A.

Q. Why doesn't the world fear us like it did Abraham?

A.

Q. Discuss the principle of praying for mercy for another so that we might receive mercy ourselves. Is this principle still true? Practiced?

A.