**SDG – Lesson #13**

**Genesis Chapters 21-22**

**Chapter 21**

1. What is meant by the phrase “The LORD visited Sarah?”

The use of the word visited stresses that:

1. The LORD entered directly into lives of His people.
2. The LORD caused the conception. This was truly a miracle (Hebrews 11:12).

2. What is the Biblical view of children? (Psalm 127:3)

Children are to be seen as a gift from the LORD.

3. Why did the LORD visit Sarah?

This verse says, “as He said” and “as He had Promised” God came because He said He would.

4. How old was Abraham? Sarah?

Abraham was 100 and very close to 101. When God announced that Sarah would give birth at about this time next year (Gen. 17 & 18) He was already 100. Sarah would have been 90 or 91.

5. What does the name Isaac mean? Why is this fitting?

Isaac means, “He (God) is laughing (now).” Though both Abraham and Sarah were beyond childbearing years; God laughs at such limitations. At the same time Isaac brought laughter to Sarah and Abraham.

6. What was really happening when Ishmael was laughing at the time that Isaac was weaned? (Galatians 4:29).

The Hebrew translated laughing can also be interpreted as scoffing (NKJV) or mocking (NASB). Galatians 4:29 picks up this theme and says he was persecuted. Ishmael obviously viewed Isaac’s growing up with contempt.

7. What did Sarah want Abraham to do because of Ishmael’s action?

Sarah wanted Abraham to cast both Hagar and Ishmael out of the family.

8. What was Abraham’s reaction to Sarah’s demand? Why?

Abraham did not want to send Hagar and Ishmael away because:

1. He loved Ishmael.
2. The legal codes of that time (Nuzi, Hammurabi) forbid doing what Sarah wanted. Therefore, it probably seemed reprehensible for Abraham to do it.

9. Why did Abraham do what Sarah demanded?

God told Abraham to do what Sarah said.

10. What was God’s two-fold promise to Abraham in this situation?

God promised that:

1. Through Isaac he would be named or remembered. This was because of the Covenant being fulfilled through Isaac.
2. Ishmael would father a great nation or race.

11. “So Abraham rose early in the morning.” What is the significance of this passage? Please remember the significance of this phrase!

God had spoken and Abraham wasted no time in doing it. Attending to God’s instruction was what Abraham addressed at the beginning of the next day. Through it was hard to do, Abraham quickly followed the Word of the Lord. This also shows us the trust that Abraham had in God’s promise.

12. What does the name Ishmael mean? Why is this fitting?

Ishmael means “God hears.” When Ishmael cried, God heard his cries and showed Hagar where water was located.

13. Where did Ishmael live? What was he known for?

Hagar and Ishmael lived in the wilderness and Ishmael became very good, an expert, with the bow.

14. Where did Hagar go to find a wife for Ishmael? Why?

Hagar went to Egypt to find a wife for Ishmael. Hagar, herself, was from Egypt. She was probably a gift from Pharaoh. This was also why she probably didn’t settle in Egypt. If Abraham had sent her away it would appear that she had been a poor slave. It would have been shameful for Pharaoh to give a poor slave. She probably would have faced extreme punishment.

15. Who was Abimelech? (20:2)

Abimelech was the King of Gerar.

16. What did Abimelech want from Abraham? Why?

Abimelech wanted a guarantee from Abraham that he would not attack him or his descendants. Abraham was obviously blessed by God and growing powerful.

17. Why did Abimelech ask Abraham to swear by God?

This was a complete binding obligation that had God as a witness. It was the ultimate form of an oath. Invoking God’s name also invoked His judgment if the oath was broken.

18. What does it mean when we read Abraham reproved Abimelech? (Vs. 25)

There was a dispute between the two concerning a well. So, Abraham pointed out Abimelech’s failing in relation to the well before sealing the treaty.

19. How did Abraham suggest that the dispute could be settled? Why?

Abraham gave Abimelech seven lambs. This acknowledges that there was a dispute and that Abimelech accepted the lambs as a sign that he no longer held a claim to the well.

20. Why did Abraham address and settle this issue before entering into the covenant with Abimelech?

Since the goal of the covenant/oath was to have peace between the two parties, Abraham addressed the contention so that they could enter the covenant in peace.

**Word Study:** **El Olam / the Everlasting God**

**In chapter 21 we are introduced to another name of God. El Olam/Everlasting God signifies that God has no mortality. He will always be. This was a fitting name to use after entering into a covenant with Abimelech. Abraham took this oath and acknowledges that God and His witness to the covenant, is everlasting. Abraham certainly intended to fulfill the oath.**

**Chapter 22**

21. It should be noted that 22:1 poses a challenge to the translators of the Bible. The verse begins, “After these things God tested Abraham.” The first challenge comes in making it readable in English.

In this phrase, the term God includes the definite article. So, literally, the verse should read, “After these things the God tested Abraham. What is the significance of the definite article?

By using the definite article the author makes it very clear that the One True God is the One who came to Abraham. In light of what God was going to ask of Abraham it is important to know exactly whom Abraham was talking to.

22. The second challenge comes with the word “tested.” What does it mean to be tested? Warning! Be careful in how you answer this question. Read James 1:13 before you define tested.

Tested signifies that God was going to examine Abraham’s heart. While a test gives a teacher information on how well a student has learned or mastered a subject, it also lets the student know how well they have done. A test is given in the hope of a good result. This is not a temptation. A temptation has the hope of causing failure. Since God know all things, this test was done for Abraham’s and our sake!

23. Why does God refer to Isaac as “your son, your only son”?

Since Ishmael was gone, Isaac was Abraham’s only son who was present. Yet, it also signifies that Isaac was the only son who the covenant would be fulfilled through. Finally, it is a foreshadow of God’s only Son.

24. Where was the land of Moriah? (2 Chronicles 3:1)

Moriah is the site of Jerusalem. Solomon built the temple on Mount Moriah.

25. What is the significance of going to Moriah?

This is the second foreshadow of Christ. Isaac was to be sacrificed in Moriah where the sacrifices of the temple were going to later be offered. Those sacrifices were for atonement. God’s only son would be the atoning sacrifice.

26. How was Abraham going to know where or what mountain he was supposed to go to?

God was going to show him.

27. Go back to question #11. What is the significance of Abraham rising early in the morning and saddling his donkey?

Again, God has given a command and Abraham makes it his first priority to fulfill that command.

28. What commands are we given?

Matthew 28:19-20: - Go and make disciples

1st Corinthians 10:31 & Colossians 3:17: - Give glory to God

Using Abraham as an example, how should we handle those commands?

We should make it a priority to fulfill them.

Consider the command to Abraham and the command given to you. Now ask yourself, “Who has been given the harder command?” Suddenly, we see the amazing faith and faithfulness of this great Patriarch.

29. What is the significance of the phrase, “On the third day?” (Exodus 19:10-11)

Two days represents the time to prepare to see God or see His power at work. On the third day God came down to the people in the wilderness. On the third day Christ rose!

30. Carefully read verse 5. What exactly did Abraham tell his men to do? Why? What exactly did he say that he and Isaac were going to do?

Abraham told his two servants to stay with the donkeys. If they went along with him they would probably try to stop him. He told the two men that he and Isaac would:

1. Go
2. Worship
3. Return

31. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. What did Abraham mean when he spoke with his young men?

Abraham knew the Covenant was to be fulfilled through Isaac. Therefore, if he sacrificed Isaac he figured God would raise him from the dead.

Note: All three verbs used in the verse show a strong determination. It could easily be translated, “We are determined to go, we are determined to worship, and we are determined to return.”

32. What obvious problem did Isaac make note of?

Isaac noted that they had no lamb for the sacrifice.

33. How did Abraham respond to Isaac? What is the significance of this?

Abraham told Isaac that God would provide for Himself the lamb. This is again a foretaste of what was to come. God would provide the Lamb, His Only Son as the atoning sacrifice. God had provided Isaac so Abraham’s words were also true in that situation.

34. How far did Abraham go in fulfilling God’s command to him?

Abraham built the altar, laid the wood, bound Isaac, placed Isaac on the wood, took out the knife to kill Isaac and pulled back his arm to do the job.

35. What stopped Abraham?

God called to Abraham and told him to stop.

36. What is the significance of the ram in thicket?

The ram fulfills Abraham’s words, “the Lord will provide.” It is also a foretaste of Christ. The ram was a substitute for Isaac. Christ was the Lamb, the Only Son, who would make atonement for us as our substitute.

37. What did Abraham call that place? Why was this appropriate?

Abraham called it, “The Lord Will Provide.” God did provide at that time and would provide the Sacrifice. Every sacrifice that was made at the temple in later years was a reminder that God would provide.

38. Why did God swear by His own name?

There is no name higher than His own name. It is an everlasting oath.

39. What are the three components of God’s promise?

1) Abraham would have many descendants

2) The offspring would defeat His enemies

3) Through his offspring all nations would be blessed.

40. Look again at this promise. The second part says, “and your offspring will possess the gate of his enemies.” This refers to a single offspring. Who is that offspring? Who were His enemies?

Christ is the offspring and He defeated:

1. Sin
2. Death
3. Devil

41. How are all nations blessed through Abraham’s offspring?

The Gospel of Jesus is for all people. Christ died for the salvation of all who believe.