



# The Beginning

## Lesson 12: The Son Of Promise

(Genesis 20:1-23:20)

Abraham left Mamre and journeyed to the South to a place called Gerar. While he was in this place, he told the people there that his wife, Sarah, was his sister. Once again, Abraham did not tell the whole truth and tell them she was also his wife. Whenever Abimelech (the king of Gerar) heard this, he took Sarah for himself. Then, God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said that he was a dead man because he had taken another man's wife.

Abimelech told God that Abraham said Sarah was his sister and that he had not tried to take another man's wife. Because Abimelech had not known about this, God told him so that he would not sin. Therefore, Abimelech was to give Sarah back to Abraham. Early the next morning, Abraham was called to Abimelech and gave Sarah back to him, along with sheep, oxen, servants, land, and a thousand pieces of silver. Afterward, Abraham prayed to God and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and allowed the women in Abimelech's house to have children.

After this, God allowed Sarah to have a son. Even though Abraham and Sarah were both old, God kept His promise and Sarah had a son, and named him Isaac. On the eighth day, Abraham circumcised Isaac, just as God had commanded him. Now, Abraham and Sarah were very happy. In fact, the name "Isaac" means "Laughter." Even though Abraham was 100-years-old and Sarah was 90-years-old, God had kept His promise!

Isaac was Abraham's true heir and the one God would fulfill all His promises through. So, whenever Sarah saw Hagar's son, Ishmael, mocking and making fun, she was upset and told Abraham to make Hagar and Ishmael leave so that Ishmael would not be heir with Isaac. This whole thing made Abraham unhappy. But, God told Abraham to go ahead and promised that it would be okay. God would keep His promises through Isaac and He would also make a great nation of Ishmael. So, God took care of Hagar and Ishmael even though they had to go away.

After some time had passed, God tested Abraham to see whether Abraham would trust in Him or not. Abraham and Sarah were now even older and loved Isaac

very much. Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” (Genesis 22:2).

Because Abraham trusted in God, he got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, took two of his young men and Isaac with him, split wood for the offering, and went to the place God commanded. Whenever they came near to the place, Abraham left the young men and said that he and Isaac would go and worship God and they would return.

Abraham and Isaac took the wood and a knife to the place for the sacrifice. But, Isaac had a question. He asked, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” (Genesis 22:7)? Abraham told him that God would provide the sacrifice. So, when they came to the place, Abraham built the altar, laid the wood on the altar, tied up Isaac, and put him on the wood.

Then, whenever Abraham took the knife in his hand and was about to kill his son (as God had commanded him), the Angel of the Lord called to him from Heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” (Genesis 22:11). The Angel then told Abraham not to harm Isaac. Abraham had now shown that he trusted in God and feared Him so much that he would not even keep his own son from God. Then, Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. This ram was offered to God as the sacrifice and Abraham called the place, “The-Lord-Will-Provide.” And, the Angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham a second time and promised him that he would be blessed and all nations of the earth would be blessed through his seed.

Later, when Isaac was 37-years-old, Sarah died at the age of 127 in Hebron. This made Abraham very sad. Then, he bought the cave of Machpelah from the sons of Heth as a burial place for her. It cost him 400 shekels of silver.

**Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series**

**Study Number: CS30**

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# Study Questions:

- 1) Who was the king of Gerar?
- 2) What did Abraham say about Sarah? What did he not say?
- 3) Who was the son born to Abraham and Sarah?
- 4) How old were Abraham and Sarah when he was born?
- 5) What happened to Hagar and Ishmael? Why did this happen?
- 6) What did God tell Abraham to do to his son?
- 7) Why did Abraham obey God?
- 8) What happened to Isaac?

## Memory Verse:

“And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken.” (Genesis 21:1).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: