

Genesis 21:1-21 **Isaac Born, Ishmael Sent Away**

1 "And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him--whom Sarah bore to him-- Isaac. 4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me." 7 She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

8 So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned. 9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing. 10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac." 11 And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son. 12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called. 13 Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed." 14 So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting it on her shoulder, he gave it and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba.

15 And the water in the skin was used up, and she placed the boy under one of the shrubs. 16 Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept. 17 And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. 18 Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation." 19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink. 20 So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. 21 He dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt." NKJV

Facts revealed:

- ✧ Abraham was 100-years old, Sarah was 90-years old and Ishmael was 14-years old at the time of Isaac's birth which occurred at the exact time God had foretold in His visit 9-months earlier on His way to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. [[Genesis 18:10](#)]
- ✧ God kept His promise and Sarah gave birth to a son whom Abraham called Isaac, the name God had given to Abraham at His visit changing Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah and establishing the covenant of circumcision. [[Genesis 17:19](#)]
- ✧ Isaac was circumcised on the eighth day according to the commandment of God when the Covenant of Circumcision was established. [[Genesis 17:12](#)]
- ✧ Sarah marveled that she was able to give birth at age 90, and laughed saying, "all who hear will laugh with me."
- ✧ Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned, (*which according to Jewish tradition was when Isaac was five years old which would make Abraham 105, Sarah 95, and Ishmael 19*).
- ✧ Ishmael was making fun of the ceremony of weaning Isaac, and it infuriated Sarah who demanded that Abraham cast out the bondwoman Hagar and her son Ishmael so Ishmael would not inherit with Isaac.

- ✧ Abraham was greatly displeased at the demand because Ishmael was his first born son and Abraham loved him.
- ✧ But Elohiym (God) agreed with Sarah and said to go along with her demand because “in Isaac your seed shall be called.” Thus God confirmed His statement that said: “You shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant and with his descendants after him.” [\[Genesis 17:19\]](#)
- ✧ But still God assured Abraham concerning Ishmael by saying: “Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, **because he is your seed**. Thus Abraham would know that God would take care of Ishmael even if Abraham sent him away.
- ✧ So Abraham obeyed God and sent them away into the wilderness of Beersheba with bread and a skin of water trusting God to keep His word.

This is before it was named Beersheba when Abraham dug a well there and made a treaty with Abimelech and called the place Beersheba meaning “*Well of the oath*” or “*Well of the Seven*.” [\[Genesis 21:31\]](#)

- ✧ Elohiym (God) heard the voice of Ishmael and Hagar weeping when they ran out of water, then the Angel of Elohiym called to Hagar out of Heaven with encouraging words and repeating His promise to make a multitude of the descendants of Hagar saying, “I will make him a great nation.” [\[Genesis 16:10\]](#)
- ✧ God then showed her a well of water, so they lived in the wilderness and Ishmael became an archer. They first lived in the wilderness of Beersheba which is the high arid wilderness south of Hebron with Beersheba being about 36 miles south west of Hebron.
- ✧ Ishmael dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

God opened Hagar’s eyes [\[v. 19\]](#) . . . unless the Almighty One opens our eyes, we too are blind and cannot see the Water of Life, Who is before us.

Apparently the Wilderness of Beersheba was uncomfortable for Ishmael to stay so near to Abraham, so he moved to the Wilderness of Paran which is on the other side of the Dead Sea in the area near Mount Seir in the Arabian Peninsula which became the home of Esau [\[Genesis 32:3\]](#) and the sons of Abraham and Keturah. [\[Genesis 25:6\]](#)