

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

GENESIS 21:11-21

LESSON: HAGAR AND ISHMAEL CAST OUT —July 21, 2019

INTRODUCTION:

The child Isaac grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the day he was weaned. The celebration of Isaac's passage from infancy to childhood was witnessed by the laughter of ridicule from Ishmael, the firstborn son of Abraham by Hagar. Sarah tells Abraham to cast out the bondwoman and her son (Hagar and Ishmael) for he will not inherit any part of Isaac's inheritance (21:8-10).

LESSON: I. GOD'S WILL CAN BE HARD GENESIS 21:11-14

21:11 **And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.** This situation with Ismael, and Hagar and Sarah grieved Abraham very much. Sending a child away you love is hard for any parent to bear. Abraham did not want to cast them out. This was very grievous for the fact that Sarah also did not want Ismael to inherit any of Isaac's inheritance even though Ishmael was the first to be born to Abraham.

21:12 **God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.** No doubt Abraham prayed to God about this matter, because God answers by telling him not to be upset; not to be grievous over the lad and the bondswoman, Hagar—just do what Sarah said. God does three things for Abraham;

- **God relieved** Abraham's distress and perplexity by telling him what to do:—*"let it not be grievous in thy sight"*, and *"do what your wife asked; hearken to her voice."*
- **God reminded** Abraham of His great purpose—*"in Isaac shall thy seed be called."*
- **God reassures** Abraham that the conflict would be resolved. Isaac will take priority over Ishmael even though Ishmael is older. Isaac would be known as the son of promise. Through him shall all the nations be blessed!

No matter what the conflict for us is:

- The answer is found in God's Word. His Word will relieve whatever distress we have and give us the answer to our questions. Our task is to search His Word for the peace we need.
- The answer is found in God's purpose. We must remind ourselves of His purpose in our lives; and
- The answer is found in God's assurance of blessings, if we will trust and believe God just as Abraham did.

21:13 **And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.** God would bless Ishmael, just because he belonged to Abraham, but the real blessing was to come through Isaac and his ancestors. He would take care of Ishmael, wherever he was.

21:14 **And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.** Abraham got up early in the morning to send Ishmael and Hagar off into the wilderness with food and water, because in the wilderness of Beersheba, water was

difficult to find in the region. I know Abraham dreaded this day. However, hurtful this was, Abraham obeyed God.

II. GOD'S WAYS CAN BE ENCOURAGING GENESIS 21:15-19

21:15 And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. Here is a single mother and child out in the desert and soon the little water that Abraham had given to them had been used up. Ishmael had apparently fainted from thirst and food. Hagar pulled him over under a bush; one of the shrubs to sit him under.

21:16 And she went, and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bow shot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him, and lift up her voice, and wept. There was exhaustion, hopelessness, and the threat of death. They could not go on any farther. Hagar had reached the end of her strength and sat down a hundred yards off from Ishmael. She began to lift up her voice and weep because she didn't want to see her child die; she was sure that he would soon die. She thought the situation was hopeless. We assumed that her voice was lifted up in prayer unto God, for in the next verse God heard her cry; her voice. She could have simply remembered the last time God heard her affliction. Sometimes we have to be at the end of our rope before we cry out for help or even cry out to God!

21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Apparently Ishmael was crying out also and God out of Heaven heard his voice. Ishmael means "*God hears.*" God heard Ismael's cry and the angel of God spoke to Hagar out of heaven. He heard Ismael (16 or 17yrs old), but spoke to Hagar! We never wander so far away from God that He will not hear our cry for help. This was due solely to God's mercy and God's love for Abraham! God stirred her to think about her problem when He asked the question: "*what aileth you?*" What's your problem? Well at this time she feared death: the death of her son. God assured her that He had heard the voice of the lad, Ishmael, and God knew exactly where he was.

21:18 Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. Hagar was not to quit and give up, but she was told to arise and lift up Ishmael and comfort him in her hands, for he is to be made a great nation by God.

21:19 And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad drink. God makes the physical provision for Hagar and Ishmael in the desert as He caused her eyes to open and see a well of water. She couldn't have seen it without God's help. She and her son were now able to quench their thirst and fill their bottle with water.

III. GOD'S PRESENCE CAN BE REALIZED GENESIS 21:20-21

21:20 And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer. God continued unbroken care and provisions for Hagar and Ishmael. He was with Ishmael as he grew into manhood. Ishmael continued to live in the desert and in that terrain he became an archer. He was able to hunt and feed himself and his mother.

21:21 And he dwelt in the wilderness of Paran: and his mother took him a wife out of the land of Egypt. Hagar and Ishmael accepted their God-given call in life. They remained in the desert of Paran. She sought a wife out of the land of Egypt for Ishmael. Ishmael married and had 12 sons. Like Ishmael himself, his descendants also lived in the desert. And they became a great nation, as God had promised (**Genesis 25:13-18**).

SUMMARY:

This situation with Ismael, and Hagar and Sarah grieved Abraham very much. He did not want to send his son Ismael away. This was very grievous for the fact that Sarah also did not want Ismael to inherit any of Isaac's inheritance even though Ishmael was the first to be born to Abraham. But, God spoke to Abraham, telling him not to feel grievous about sending Ishmael and the bondswoman, Hagar away. He is to do whatever his wife Sarah tells him, for the promise will come through Isaac, the promised son. Regarding the son of the bondswoman, God assured him that He will also develop a great nation through Ishmael because Ishmael is Abraham's seed. Abraham sent them away early in the morning into the wilderness of Beersheba with bread and a bottle of water for their hunger and thirst (**21:11-14**).

Ishmael soon fainted from thirst and no food, for it had been used up. Hagar pulled him under a bush; one of the shrubs to sit him under. Hagar had reached the end of her strength and sat down a hundred yards off from Ishmael, for she didn't want to see him die. She began to lift up her voice and weep. While in the desert, God heard the boy crying and the angel of God called from Heaven to Hagar, telling her not to be afraid because God knows where the lad is. He told her to rise up; go to the boy and hold him in her hands, and comfort him, for God will also make him a great nation. Just then God opened her eyes to see a well of water. Then she was able to fill the bottle they had with water for her and her son (**21:15-19**).

God was with Ishmael as he grew into manhood dwelling in the desert of Paran becoming a skilled archer. And his mother sought a wife for him from the land of Egypt as they dwelt in the wilderness of Paran (**21:20-21**).