

Genesis Lecture 12

We will begin lecture 12 on Genesis

We will begin the lecture on ch 20

The subject of ch 20 is protection

First, Failure at Gerar

1-2

2nd, God protects Sarah

3-7

3rd, Abimelek rebukes Abraham

8-13

4th, the disgrace of Sarah is lifted

14-16

5th, Abimelek is blessed through Abraham's prayer

17-18

In this passage, we see Abraham moving south to the area of the Negev.

He stayed in Gerar which was the territory of the Philistines.

The king of that city was Abimelek.

when Abraham was in Gerar, he made another mistake

read vv. 1-2: Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar, **2** and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

Abraham lied again about his wife and said that she was his sister.

And Abimelek took Sarah as his wife.

Abraham was afraid that he would lose his life and his wife to the Philistines.

Of course, Sarah is his half-sister

But Sarah is his wife so this is a lie.

In 12:13 we saw the same mistake and consequences Abraham incurred in Egypt when he lied about Sarah to Pharaoh.

This is a sign of Abraham's lack of faith.

The right thing to do would have been to trust almighty God and remain truthful and honest about Sarah.

read v. 3: But God came to Abimelek in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."

At that time God appeared to Abimelek in a dream.

And commanded him not to touch the woman.

This is God's protection over Sarah.

Here, Abimelek did not know that Sarah was Abraham's wife.

So God did not punish Abimelek because God knew this.

God revealed that Sarah was Abraham and protect them both.

v. 7: Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all who belong to you will die."

God said that Abraham was a prophet.

Abraham is the prophet of God at that time.

Because God used Abraham in the work of salvation.

So God told Abraham to pray for Abimelek.

When a prophet prays. God answers that prayer.

1 Chron. 21:26

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The next day, Abimelek returned Sarah to Abraham.

Sarah would have suffered enormous disgrace but God saved her.

read v. 14: Then Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and male and female slaves and gave them to Abraham, and he returned Sarah his wife to him.

Here Abimelek brought sheep and cattle and gave them to Abraham with Sarah.

read v. 17: Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again, **18** for the Lord had kept all the women in Abimelek's household from conceiving because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

Abimelek was a Gentile but still feared God.

He realized his mistake and took care of his wrong and accepted Abraham's prayer.

When Abraham prayed for Abimelek God sent his grace.

The relationship between Abraham and Abimelek was resolved in a good way.

Here, at the end of v. 17, it says that God healed Abimelek.

God had sent a plague that prevented the Philistine women from having children to prevent Abimelek from touching Sarah.

God did this to protect Sarah.

We don't know what exactly kind of plague this was.

But Abimelek feared this type of disease in his family and thus returned Sarah

The lesson we can learn in ch 20 is that Abraham made another big mistake

Abraham is the father of faith

But Abraham was not saved by his deeds.

He is also a sinner.

He was credited righteousness through faith in coming Jesus

Also, Abraham did not trust in the sovereign power of God.

In fear for his life he lied about his wife.

And God sent a plague to Abimelek to save Sarah

And in Sarah's weakness God delivered her by his grace.

Also, God said that Abraham was a prophet.

He was a prophet in his times who helped fulfill God's work of salvation

So Abraham prayed for Abimelek and blessed his family.

We will continue to lecture on ch 21

The subject of ch 21 is birth of Isaac

1st Isaac is born

1-3

2nd, Isaac is nurtured in the faith.

4-7

3rd, Ishmael mocks Isaac

8-9

4th, Hagar and Ishmael is sent away

10-14

5th, Ishmael will become a great nation

15-21

6th, Abraham makes a treaty with Abimelek

Abraham makes a treaty with Abimelek

22-34

In this passage, God helps Sarah to give birth to Isaac for Abraham.

read v. 1: Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised.

God looked over Sarah

God helped Sarah to conceive and give birth to Isaac.

In the passage is repeated the phrase, "according to his promise," "according to his promise."

So through God's word God had watched over Sarah and fulfilled his promise.

God's word has power.

God had promised that Abraham and Sarah would give birth to Isaac one year

So in Isaac's birth God reminds them of his promise and the power of his word.

There is nothing God's word cannot accomplish

God's word always comes true

read vv. 2-3: Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. **3** Abraham gave the name Isaac[a] to the son Sarah bore him.

Here it says that Sarah became pregnant and bore a son..at the very time God had promised'

God fulfilled his promise

Sarah bore a son for Abraham at a very old age.

Only a sovereign, almighty God could accomplish this.

Humans are weak but God is powerful

that is how Abraham at age 100 and Sarah at age 90 were able to have a child.

read v. 4: When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.

8 days after Isaac was born Abraham circumcised him.

17:12 gives the account of the covenant of circumcision

This is according to God's promise and shows that Isaac was raised according to God's word

Abraham nurtured his son according to God's promise and according to God's word.

in v. 5 Abraham was 100 years old when he had Isaac

This is evidence that Isaac was born through the power of God.

read vv. 8-9: The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. **9** But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking,

It became time for Isaac to be weaned.

We don't know exactly how old he was but he less than six years old.

At that time Ishmael is 14 years older than Isaac.

So if Isaac was 3 to 5 years old Ishmael would have been 17 or 19.

But when we look at v. 19: Ishmael who is 14 years older is mocking Isaac.

Ishmael was making fun of Isaac, taunting him, being cruel.

Therefore, Sarah saw this and worried that Isaac would be hurt.
So Sarah told Abraham to send Ishmael away.

read v. 10: and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

Sarah told her husband, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

There is a lesson to be learned here.

Gal 4:29 says

Gal 4:29

The son born in the flesh will persecute the son born by the spirit.

The son born in the flesh will persecute the son born by the spirit.

Ishmael is the son born in the flesh

Isaac is the son born by the Spirit.

So the son born in the flesh is persecuting the son born in the Spirit in this verse.

This is the way things are.

The one who belongs to the flesh cannot have fellowship with the one who belongs to the Spirit.

2 Cor. 6:14

Therefore, according to this passage, the one belonging to the flesh must be sent out.

We must get rid of any thoughts belonging to the flesh

in v. 12, When Abraham was worried about his son Ishmael, God told Abraham to listen to his wife Sarah and send Ishmael and Hagar away.

in v. 12, God told Abraham to send away Hagar and Ishmael according to Sarah's word.

and at the end of v. 12 God says, "it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

Isaac is the child of promise

Through Isaac Christ will come

God is going to fulfill his promise to send Jesus through Isaac.

So, in the end Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away.

Abraham did not hesitate but obeyed God's command

This is another example of Abraham's great faith.

Hagar though a maidservant is now his wife as well.

And Ishmael though son of a maidservant is still his son.

So humanly speaking Ishmael is his son

So to send out Hagar and Ishmael is to cut off all relations

Abraham valued God and his word and acceptance over any relationship.

So according to God's command he decided to end what must be ended.

In the end, the one belonging to the spirit and the one belonging to the flesh must be separated.

Therefore, believers must cut off all human thinking

We must get rid of desires of the flesh

Let us throw away human thinking and desires of the flesh and walk in the spirit.

Rom 8:7

when we look at v. 15, God promises to make Ishmael into a great nation.

Of course Ishmael is not the promise child

read v. 20: God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.

Ishmael grew up. He became an archer and lived in the desert.

Ishmael became a great nation and a man of prominence.

He became successful on the outside.

But did not receive a spiritual blessing.

Read, v. 22: At that time Abimelek and Phicol the commander of his forces said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything you do.

In v. 22, the Philistine king Abimelek and his commander Phicol came to Abraham.

Why did they come to visit Abraham.

Abimelek said to Abraham "God is with you"

Even a Gentile king Abimelek knew that God with Abraham

Abraham walked with God and people saw that God blessed him in all that he did.

Abraham became a wealthy and powerful man.

As stated early Abraham was a prophet.

20:7

Also, Abraham was prince

23:5-6

here, it says here that Abraham was a prince

So Abraham had become a man of influence and his neighbors came to fear him.

When believers walk by faith God blesses them and prospers them.

And unbelievers come to them.

They come to seek help.

Here, Abimelek came and said let us not make war against each other

and let us not attack one another.

And came to make a treaty.

a treaty not only between themselves but also between their descendants.

read v. 23: Now swear to me here before God that you will not deal falsely with me or my children or my descendants. Show to me and the country where you now reside as a foreigner the same kindness I have shown to you."

So even with his descendants he wanted to have a friendly relationship without war.

read v. 31: So that place was called Beersheba,[d] because the two men swore an oath there.

They named the place of the treaty Beersheba.

Beersheba means "well of oath"

They made the well as a sign of their treaty

read v. 33-34: Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Eternal God. **34** And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time.

Tamarisk tree here means "forest"

Perhaps Abraham planted many tamarisk trees in Beersheba to form a forest.

Abraham called on the eternal God.

which means God lived a life of worship

He walked with God, depended on him and centered his life around God.

So Abraham, wherever he went made the glory of God and worshipping God his first priority.

In the passage today ch 22 God helped Abraham and Sarah to have a son, Isaac and blessed them.

And when Isaac was weaned, Ishmael began to mock Isaac.

Today there are many situations in which unbelievers mock the faithful.

Therefore, we must get rid of humanistic thinking

when we trust in God He will bless us

Then people in the world will see this and come to us for help.

This concludes the lecture on ch 21.

We will now begin lecture on ch 22.

Ch 22 is about “test”

1st God tests Abraham

1-2

2nd Abraham obeys

3-4

3rd, Use of wisdom

5-8

4th, Lays down his only son

9-10

5th, God accepts the offering

11-14

6th, God blesses Abraham and makes an oath

15-19

7th, Nahor’s children

20-24

in the passage today, ch 22 God test Abraham and command him to offer his only son Isaac

read v. 1: Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

God tested Abraham

This test is not the same as temptation to evil.

God wanted to bless Abraham through the test

He wanted to fortify Abraham’s character.

He wanted to bring out Abraham’s faith and bless him.

James 1:4

James 1:4

read v. 2: Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

The test of God to Abraham was for Abraham to take his only son to a place in Moriah and sacrifice him to God as a burnt offering.

Burnt offering here is when you burn completely the object of sacrifice to God.

Lev. 1:3-9

Lev. 1:3-9

Abraham obeyed

To sacrifice your only son born to you at the age of 100 is a tremendous test of one’s faith

Actually it is harder to put your son to death than to die yourself.

In addition, God had promised that He would send the Christ through Isaac.

in 21:12

God said that through Isaac, Abraham’s Seed will be reckoned.

This doesn’t make sense because at one point God said He would send the Christ through Isaac and now He is commanding Abraham to sacrifice him. So how could the Christ come if Isaac dies?

If Christ dies Christ cannot come.

Is God who one wavers back and forth?

Abraham did not see this as a contradiction on God’s part.

Abraham believed that there was an answer with God and was obedient to both of God's commands.

This was not a contradiction

To a man of faith this was not a contradiction.

He believed in God.

Hebrews 11:17-19

in Hebrews 11:17-19,

he believed that even in Isaac's death, God would raise him up from the dead and bring Christ through him.

So Abraham became the answer, if Abraham sacrifices his son then God would still raise him up from the dead and still bring Christ through Isaac.

Rom. 4:17

Rom. 4:17

This is faith in the resurrection.

God did not say, if you sacrifice your son I will raise him up.

God did not promise to resurrect his dead son.

God had not taught about resurrection, but Abraham had faith in the resurrection.

Abraham had tremendous faith.

He offered his only son that he loved.

He was obedient even to what seemed to be a contradictory command of God.

Also, Abraham had resurrection faith.

read v. 3: Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

Abraham obeyed God's command without hesitation.

He was faithfully diligent to the word.

He prepared the sacrifice with devotion.

There must have been a lot of wood on Mt. Moriah

And yet he split the wood at home, and prepared his son and his servant to head off to Mr. Moriah.

We should also diligently prepare for worship and give all of our hearts to God

read v. 4: On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

Abraham went three days journey with his only son that he loved.

Abraham did not waver during those three days

Humanly speaking, he must have been heart broken to think about sacrificing his son.

But the Bible doesn't record any regret, or sadness or wavering on Abraham's part.

He held on to God trusting in him and in prayer obeyed God's command.

He leaned upon God.

He was led only by God.

He let go of human thinking.

He held only on to God.

read v. 5: He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

He left his servants at the bottom of the Mt.

And he took Isaac with the wood for the sacrifice up the Mt.

Abraham acted wisely.

If he had taken the servants they would not have understood what Abraham was going to do.

They would have tried to stop him.

They would have prevented Abraham.

So in order to avoid this situation he left them at the bottom of the Mt.

So we can see that Abraham had thought carefully about situation and was determined to carry out God's word.

And he had Isaac carry the wood and went.

He carried the fire and the wood and walked together with his son.

read vv. 7-8: Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

While walking together Isaac asks a question suddenly.

He asked we have the fire and the wood but where is the offering?

When Abraham heard this he must have been very sad.

His heart must have been moved with compassion for his son.

But he did not waver toward his son.

He looked only to God and went on praying.

and answered wisely, “God will provide the offering my son.”

And this is exactly what happened later.

Matt. 10:20

Matt. 10:20

read v. 9: **9** When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

read v. 10: **10** Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Abraham bound and put his son Isaac on the altar.

Isaac had grown up enough to carry the wood

Abraham is old in age.

Abraham would have said to Isaac, “God wants me to offer you as the sacrifice.”

Isaac accepted this with thankfulness.

Isaac also has faith.

Then why did Abraham bind Isaac?

This is because Isaac may resist.

Instinctively because of the pain he may fight and roll off the altar.

Therefore, he had to be bound.

So binding sin or being bound to the Church can be useful in our faith.

Then Abraham held up the knife to kill Isaac.

read v. 11: But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

read v. 12: "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

When Abraham raised his hands to strike Isaac, God intervened.

God recognized Abraham's faith.

It the same as if he had already received Isaac.

God looks at the heart.

God said now I know that you fear God.

Abraham loved God more than his son.

He obeyed God's command and glorified God.

He passed the test and was praised.

James 1:12

God's intention was to bring this faith out of Abraham to bless him.

At that time, in v. 13, God showed Abraham a ram cut in a thicket and he sacrificed it to the Lord.

Abraham thus called the place Yahweh Yireh.

Yaweheh Yireh, means God will provide

When we take a step of faith God prepares and provides for him.

God always provides for the believer who walks in faith.

And God blesses Abraham again in v. 15 and onward.

He will make Abraham great

and make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and sand on the seashore.

He will help Abraham defeat his enemies.

Because Abraham loved God and obeyed he received this great blessing.

Now, vv. 20-24 mention Nahor's children.

The family background of Nahor, Abraham's younger brother is recorded here.

in v. 24 Rebekah's name is mentioned

Rebekah later becomes Isaac's wife.

We have now completed the lecture on ch 22

In this passage, Abraham sacrificed his beloved son as a sacrifice to God

Let us have faith like Abraham and also receive God's blessing through faith.

This concludes the 12th lecture on Genesis.

Thank you.

