

Lesson Seven: *Isaac*
Genesis 21-24

Themes:

Patriarchal History 11:10-37:1: God chooses a seed (nation) through which He will begin to fulfill His redemptive purposes for humanity.

Genesis 11:1-25:11: God commits Himself to the fulfillment of His promises thereby encouraging His people to trust and obey Him.

- I. (21:1-7) **The Promise Fulfilled**
- a. According to God's mercy:
 - i. (1) *took note of Sarah*: The sweetness of our LORD'S mercy
 - 1. Psalm 8:4—God is always mindful of those He loves
 - 2. God's mercy despite Sarah's doubt (Gen 18:12; Rom 5:8)
 - 3. The benevolence of God's visitations (Gen 15:1; I Sam 2:21; Luke 1:68)
 - b. According to God's power:
 - i. (1) *visited Sarah*: The perfection of our LORD'S power
 - 1. What is impossible with men is possible with God (cf. Matt 19:26).
 - a. The LORD brings life from "death" (Rom 4:19)
 - 2. The power of a "gifted" faith (Heb 11:9-12)
 - c. According to God's word:
 - i. (1) *as He said...promised*: The foundation of our LORD'S word
 - 1. *So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it* (Is 55:11).
 - a. God's word is the basis for our expectant trust.
 - ii. (7) *Who would have said*:
 - 1. *God's favours to his covenant-people are such as surpass both their own and others' thoughts and expectations* (Matthew Henry).
 - a. I Corinthians 1:27
 - d. According to God's time:
 - i. (2) *at the appointed time*: The perfection of our LORD'S timing
 - 1. The mercies of God are best observed in *His* time.
 - 2. The call to wait upon the LORD (Ps 46:10; 130:5)
 - e. According to God's command:
 - i. (3-4) *called...Isaac...circumcised*: The importance of our LORD'S command
 - 1. (3) What's in a name?
 - a. Genesis 17:19—*laughter* (Abraham, Sarah, the future seed)
 - 2. (4) Circumcision—Genesis 17:10
 - a. The "pain" of obedience
 - 3. Our response to the mercies of God (Rom 12:1-2)
- II. (22:1-24) **The Promise Tested**
- a. (1a) The nature of spiritual testing:
 - i. *God tested Abraham*: God ordains Abraham's testing
 - 1. God's tests delight Him.
 - 2. God's tests have a sovereign purpose.
 - 3. God's tests bear fruit.
 - b. (1b-3) The response to spiritual testing:
 - i. (1b) *Here I am*: God's children are always listening for His voice

- ii. (2) *Take now your son*: Those that listen, are blessed with instruction
 - 1. God's children must *accept* and *respond* to the light that has been given.
 - iii. (3) *So Abraham rose early*: The response of an obedient heart
 - 1. Obedience must be rendered immediately.
 - 2. Pray for greater light as you move!
 - c. (4-7) Obedience will be tested to determine its sincerity:
 - i. (4) *Third day*: **Time** will test obedience
 - 1. Time must not weaken your resolve.
 - ii. (5) *Stay here*: **Distractions** will test obedience
 - 1. Obedience requires a singular focus.
 - iii. (7a) *My father*: **Affection** will test obedience.
 - 1. God must be your "first love" (Rev 2:4)
 - iv. (7b) *Where is the lamb*: **Uncertainty** will test obedience
 - 1. Those with limited vision will have doubts.
 - d. (8-10) The demonstration of faithful obedience:
 - i. (8) *God will provide*: Abraham's faith is in God (Heb 11:19)
 - ii. (10) *Stretched out his hand*: Abraham's faith is genuine
 - e. (11-14) The fruit of spiritual testing:
 - i. (11-12) *The angel of the LORD called*: **Revelation**
 - ii. (13-14) *A ram caught in the thicket*: **Provision**
 - iii. (20-24) God will provide for the future of His chosen seed.
- III. (24:1-25:26) **The Promise Continued**
- a. (24:1-6) A righteous seed:
 - i. (3-4) Isaac's wife will be taken from the people of blessing (cf. Gen 9:25-27)
 - 1. *You shall not intermarry with them...For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods* (Deut 7:3-4; cf. Ishmael & Esau).
 - ii. (6) Isaac is protected from the temptations of the "far country."
 - b. (24:7-25:26) Faithfulness:
 - i. The faithfulness of Abraham
 - 1. (7) Abraham trusts the LORD to fulfill the promise (cf. Gen 16).
 - ii. The faithfulness of Abraham's servant
 - 1. (10) The servant's obedience (a long journey)
 - 2. (11) The servant's discernment (outside the city)
 - 3. (12-14, 26-27) The servant's faith
 - a. (12-14) Demonstrated by prayer (cf. Gen 15:8)
 - b. (26-27) Demonstrated by worship
 - 4. (33-49) The servant's devotion
 - iii. The faithfulness of Rebekah
 - 1. (18-20) Rebekah's submission and service
 - 2. (25) Rebekah's hospitality
 - 3. (58) Rebekah's commitment to Abraham's God
 - iv. The faithfulness of Isaac
 - 1. (62) Obedience to his father
 - 2. (63) A heart for the LORD
 - 3. (67) A heart for his wife
 - v. The faithfulness of God
 - 1. (15) A prompt response (Is 65:24)
 - 2. (16-20) A fitting response
 - 3. (25:19-26) A future response

The word of the LORD is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness (Ps 33:4).