

Genesis 21 Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - His Promises Fail Not.

Genesis 21:1

“Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah *as He had promised*” (Gen 21:1). Because God is perfect, He never changes (1 Sam. 15:29, Mal. 3:6); theologians refer to this as God’s immutability. And because God is immutable: His *lovingkindness* toward His people is immutable (Psa. 103:17); His *knowledge* is immutable (Job. 37:16, Psa. 147:5), and His *promises* are immutable (Heb. 6:13-18). Therefore, what God has said, He will do (2 Cor. 1:20). The Lord declares, “I am watching over My word to perform it” (Jer. 1:12). “Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed” (Rom. 10:11).

Read Job 42:2

☐ Tuesday - At the Appointed Time.

Genesis 21:2

“So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, *at the appointed time* of which God had spoken to him” (Gen. 21:2). Sarah was 90 years old and Abraham 100. By human standards Isaac’s birth was late, very late! Yet according to God’s timetable, Isaac’s birth was right on schedule. “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven” (Eccl. 3:1). “I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning” (Isa. 46:9-10). Christian, our times are in His hand (Psa. 31:15). Therefore, “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him” (Psa. 37:7).

Read Isaiah 40:31

☐ Wednesday - He is Faithful.

Genesis 21:1-2

“Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him” (Gen. 21:1-2). In the preceding chapter, Abraham had lied to Abimelech (Gen. 20:2-13). Nevertheless, God’s promise to Abraham was kept because God is faithful, not because Abraham’s performance was perfect. “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself” (2 Tim. 2:13). Great is Thy faithfulness, O Lord!

Read Psalm 36:5; Lamentations 3:22-23

☐ Thursday - Joy Proportional to the Wait.

Genesis 21:2-6

Before Sarah had even conceived, the Lord said that she and Abraham would bear a son and name him “Isaac” which means laughter (Gen. 17:19). And at that time they both did laugh, not because the thought made them happy, but because they thought it was ridiculous (Gen. 17:17, 18:12). But a year later, we read, “So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age ... [and] Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me” (Gen. 21:2-6). O what joy filled their hearts! After decades of hoping and wishing for a child, a son was given! Their long wait fueled their shouts of joy. But we, like Abraham and Sarah, are waiting for a Son; yet not decades, but millenia! And O how great will be our joy when He breaks through the clouds!

Read Isaiah 35:10

☐ Friday - An Allegory of Two People.

Genesis 21:9-21

These two mothers Sarah and Hagar, and their two sons Isaac and Ishmael are allegorically speaking two covenants, two mountains, and two Jerusalem’s, representing two people.

Read Galatians 4:21-31