

Genesis 21 II The Birth of Isaac II Walt Alexander

MAIN POINT: Take God at his Word and everything else will fall in place.

1. God always keeps his promises. (v. 21:1-2)

Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. **Genesis 11:30**

“Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” **Genesis 17:17**

The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? **Genesis 18:13-14a**

From the sky the highway’s straight as it could be
A string pulled from home to Tennessee
And still somehow those ditches took a better part of me
From the sky the highway’s straight as it could be **Jason Isbell**

“The matter of fact style & the emphasis on what God had *said . . . spoken . . . spoken* express the quiet precision of his control.” **Derek Kidner**

“Obeying God is worked out within well-defined boundaries of God's revealed will. Trusting God is worked out in an arena that has no boundaries.” **Jerry Bridges**

2. Obedience is always best. (v. 21:3-5)

“My dear brothers and sisters, it will sometimes happen that to do the right thing will appear to be most disastrous; it will shipwreck your fortune, and bring you into trouble, but I charge you do the right thing at any cost! Instead of your being honored, respected, and accounted a leader in the Christian church, you will be regarded as eccentric and bigoted if you speak straight out; but speak straight out and never mind what comes of it! You and I have nothing to do with what becomes of us, or our reputations, or with what becomes of the world, or becomes of heaven itself! Our one business is to do our Father’s will.” **Charles Spurgeon**

“I believe it was about two or three months before her death, when I was walking up and down the room, offering disjointed prayers from a heart torn with distress, that a thought suddenly struck me, with unusual force, to this effect—‘The promises of God must be true; surely the Lord will help me, if I am willing to be helped!’ It occurred to me, that we are often led . . . [from an undue regard of our feelings], to indulge that unprofitable grief which both our duty and our peace require us to resist to the utmost of our power.” **John Newton**

3. The best is (always) yet to come. (v. 21:6-7)

Sarai said to Abram, “Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.” **Genesis 16:2**

As the angels said to the shepherds: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **Luke 2:10-11**

“My dear Christian reader, will you not try this way? Every one is invited and commanded to trust in the Lord, to trust in Him with all his heart, and to cast his burden upon Him, and to call upon Him in the day of trouble. Will you not do this, my dear brethren in Christ? I long that you may do so. I desire that you may taste the sweetness of that state of heart, in which, while surrounded by difficulties and necessities, you can yet be at peace, because you know that the living God, your Father in heaven, cares for you.” **George Mueller**

“When there are simple, straightforward jobs to be done, and you are full of sadness, and tears are flowing easily, go ahead and do the jobs with tears. Be realistic. Say to your tears, ‘Tears, I feel you. You make me want to quit life. But there is a field to be sown (dishes to be washed, car to be fixed, sermon to be written).’ Then say, on the basis of God’s word, ‘Tears, I know that you will not stay forever. The very fact that I just do my work (tears and all) will in the end bring a harvest of blessing. So, go ahead and flow if you must. But I believe—though I do not yet see it or feel it fully—I believe that the simple work of my sowing will bring sheaves of harvest. And my tears will be turned to joy.’” **John Piper**