

GENESIS –Lesson 39

Learn: Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. I Corinthians 10:11-13

Read: Genesis 21:1-34

1. What is emphasized in the first verse of chapter 21?

What are the two phrases used?

2. Verse two states that God's promise was fulfilled on schedule (God's schedule, not man's). What phrase points this out?

3. God kept His promise, what was Sarah's part in this? Hebrews 11:11

The bodies of Abraham and Sarah had been miraculously rejuvenated, their ages being one hundred and ninety years old respectively (Genesis 17:17; 21:5). Sarah was "young" enough again, not only to have a child, but to nurse him (verse 7); Abraham was "young" enough again not only to father Isaac, but also six other sons of his wife Keturah, after Sarah died (Genesis 25:2)! When God miraculously heals, it is not a partial healing, but a complete and instant restoration.

Dr. Henry Morris

4. Why did Abraham name this son of promise Isaac? Genesis 17:19; 21:6,7

5. What did Abraham do in accordance with God's command when Isaac was eight days old? v 4

6. What was the penalty for disobedience in regard to circumcision? Genesis 17:12-14

7. Reviewing Genesis 17:7-11. Does the covenant of circumcision apply to any other nation or people of the world? Explain.

8. Sarah nursed Isaac, in accordance with the custom of the times, until probably two or three years of age. How was the day of Isaac's weaning marked?
9. What happened to mar that special occasion? v 9
10. Ishmael was now sixteen years old (Genesis 16:16; 21:5). For a long time he had been the only son, and the birth of Isaac took away his status. It is not surprising that he would act in such a manner, though it was wrong. How did Sarah handle the insult to Isaac? v 10
11. Abraham was a kind and generous man, as well as a loving father. He had even interceded on one very important occasion with God on behalf of Ishmael (Genesis 17:18). What did all this difficulty between Sarah and Hagar and her son cause to Abraham? v 11
12. How was the difficult situation solved? vv 12,13

It really was not possible for the two families to exist together. God told Abraham to follow Sarah's request, even though it would go against his personal feelings and would no doubt seem harsh to others around them. Sometimes it is necessary for God's people, if they are truly going to be in the will of God and to enjoy the fullness of His blessing, to separate completely from those who might be a source of friction and carnality, even though such separation will be difficult and will give others (who don't understand the spiritual issues involved) occasion to criticize and ridicule.

This conflict between Sarah and Hagar, between Isaac and Ishmael, has been appropriated in the New Testament as an illustration (Paul calls it an allegory) of the continuing conflict between law and grace, between the flesh and the spirit.

THE GENESIS RECORD P369 Dr. Henry Morris

13. Review our verses of Galatians 1:6, 7. What was Paul's concern?

14. Now in Galatians 4:22-31, the apostle Paul develops the contrast of the grace that had been taught the Galatian Christians (represented by Sarah), and what these Christians were being enticed to follow instead (represented by Hagar). Contrast the two women and their sons and what they represent.

Sarah

VS

Hagar

15. We see from this passage that the stories in the Bible which are true accounts of real people, are in the Bible for much more than their story value. What does I Corinthians 10:6, 11 tell us?

16. What should be our attitude then when reading any story in the Bible?

17. As soon as God had given Abraham instruction on how to handle the situation, what did he do? v 14

18. Abraham had given Hagar enough to carry her to another settlement, but what happened? vv 14,15

Archaeology has revealed that there were numerous settlements at this time in the vicinity of what was later known as Beersheba, and it seems that Hagar and Ismael set out in this direction. Dr. Henry Morris

19. What did both Hagar and Ishmael do upon finding themselves in such great trouble? vv 16, 17

20. Who heard their cries and answered their prayers? v 17

21. What was God's assurance to Hagar? vv 17, 18

Once before God had come to Hagar's help in the desert before Ishmael was born. It is more than coincidence that, in Genesis 16:7, this divine being is called "the angel of Jehovah" (the angel of the LORD). This time He is called "the angel of Elohim" (the angel of God). The reason for the change is that Jehovah is God's covenant name, and

Hagar was in the first instance still under the roof and protection of Abraham. Now, however, she has become a “stranger to the covenant of promise,” and therefore the name of God which is used is the name associated with creation and power, rather than redemption. THE GENESIS RECORD p 370 Dr. Henry Morris

22. God is the God of all men, however, whether or not they are embraced in His particular covenant with Abraham, and He was graciously concerned with Ishmael and his mother. What did the LORD do for Hagar and Ishmael? vv 19, 20

23. Where did Hagar and Ishmael then live? vv 20,21

24. How did they provide for themselves and begin that great nation that God had promised that Ishmael would become? v 21

God provided a well of water for Hagar and Ishmael. Then, apparently rather than going on to an uncertain reception in an unknown town, they decided to remain where God had met with them and promised to care for them, there in the “wilderness of Paran,” a desert region in what is now the Sinai peninsula. Hagar, in fact, became so identified with Mount Sinai that Paul could say “this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia” (Galatians 4:25).

THE GENESIS RECORD p 371 Dr. Henry Morris