

# God's Promise – God's Covenant – Notes/Outline

Mark Rust, Lay Speaker, June 22, 2008

## Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

**8** 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, **10** and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

**11** The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. **12** But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your servant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring <sup>[b]</sup> will be reckoned. **13** I will make the son of the servant into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

**14** Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

**15** When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. **16** Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she <sup>[c]</sup> began to sob.

**17** God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. **18** Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

**19** Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

**20** God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. **21** While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt. (TNIV)

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**9-10** One day Sarah saw the son that Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham, poking fun at her son Isaac. She told Abraham, "Get rid of this slave woman and her son. No child of this slave is going to share inheritance with my son Isaac!"

**11-13** The matter gave great pain to Abraham—after all, Ishmael was his son. But God spoke to Abraham, "Don't feel badly about the boy and your maid. Do whatever Sarah tells you. Your descendants will come through Isaac. Regarding your maid's son, be assured that I'll also develop a great nation from him—he's your son, too."

**14-16** Abraham got up early the next morning, got some food together and a canteen of water for Hagar, put them on her back and sent her away with the child. She wandered off into the desert of Beersheba. When the water was gone, she left the child under a shrub and went off, fifty yards or so. She said, "I can't watch my son die." As she sat, she broke into sobs.

**17-18** Meanwhile, God heard the boy crying. The angel of God called from Heaven to Hagar, "What's wrong, Hagar? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy and knows the fix he's in. Up now; go get the boy. Hold him tight. I'm going to make of him a great nation."

**19** Just then God opened her eyes. She looked. She saw a well of water. She went to it and filled her canteen and gave the boy a long, cool drink.

**20-21** God was on the boy's side as he grew up. He lived out in the desert and became a skilled archer. He lived in the Paran wilderness. And his mother got him a wife from Egypt. (the Message)

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## OUTLINE

- I will try to be back on time – but no promises
- This is a promising new play
- I promise to say NO to drugs
- I promise – cross my heart, hope to die
- Pinky promise
- I promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth
- “I DO”

### Promise – define

an expressed assurance on which expectation is to be based:

### covenant – define

- a. the conditional promises made to humanity by God, as revealed in Scripture.
- b. the agreement between God and the ancient Israelites, in which God promised to protect them if they kept His law and were faithful to Him.

### Opening – wall by a lake

### Scripture reading involves 5 individuals:

Abram/Abraham, Sari/Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, Isaac

### God’s Promise to three individuals –

#### Abraham Trusted/Reacted?

Genesis 17:5 Then God said to him, "This is my covenant with you: You'll be the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, meaning that 'I'm making you the father of many nations.' I'll make you a father of fathers—I'll make nations from you, kings will issue from you. I'm establishing my covenant between me and you, a covenant that includes your descendants, a covenant that goes on and on and on, a covenant that commits me to be your God and the God of your descendants. And I'm giving you and your descendants this land where you're now just camping, this whole country of Canaan, to own forever. And I'll be their God."

#### Sarah trusted/reacted?

Genesis 17:15-16 **15** God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. **16** I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

**Genesis 18:11-15** **11** Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. **12** So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master <sup>[d]</sup> is old, will I now have this pleasure?" **13** Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say,

'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' **14** Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son." **15** Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Hagar trusted/reacted?

Genesis 16:7-15 **7** The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. **8** And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. **9** Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her." **10** The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." **11** The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, <sup>[a]</sup> for the LORD has heard of your misery. **12** He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward <sup>[b]</sup> all his brothers." **13** She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen <sup>[c]</sup> the One who sees me." **14** That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi <sup>[d]</sup>; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered. **15** So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. **16** Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Genesis 21:16-19 **16** Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she <sup>[c]</sup> began to sob. **17** God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. **18** Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." **19** Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

Adjective of each character?

Abraham? – submissive, knowing, trusting

Hebrews 11: 8-10: **8**By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. **9**By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **10**For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Sarah? – accepting, impatient, spurned/jealous, trusting

Hebrews 11: 11-12: **11**By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he <sup>[a]</sup> considered him faithful who had made the promise. **12**And so from this one

man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.  
Hagar? – humbled, afraid, trusting, rudderless, desperate  
Encountered God twice

Ishmael/Isaac – manifestation of the promise

Isaac receives the blessing and the covenant –

Romans 9:7

Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through **Isaac** that your offspring will be reckoned."

Galatians 4:28

Now you, brothers, like **Isaac**, are children of promise.

Hebrews 11:7

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered **Isaac** as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son,

Galatians 4:21-23

**21**Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? **22**For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. **23**His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 **31** "The days are coming," declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. **32** It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to <sup>[d]</sup> them, <sup>[e]</sup>" declares the LORD. **33** "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **34** No longer will they teach their neighbors, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Jeremiah 32:42 **42** "This is what the LORD says: As I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will give them all the prosperity I have promised them.

How do we respond to God's promise?

Do we trust God? Or, do we trust in ourselves?

**Galatians 4:3-7** **3**So also, when we were children, we were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. **4**But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, **5**to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. **6**Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba," <sup>[a]</sup> Father." **7**So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

Sarah had a difficult time in waiting and accepting, so she gave Abraham, Hagar. Sarah was jealous and sent Hagar away.

Hagar trusted God instead of herself. She gave birth to Ishmael and then was sent away. Her trust in the Lord, though, saw Ishmael be the father of 12 children. God blessed him regardless of the situation.

In being an heir, we are offered a gift.

Proverbs 18:16 A **gift** opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.

Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God—

Covenant – the agreement between God and the ancient Israelites, in which God promised to protect them if they kept His law and were faithful to Him.

Micah 6:6-8 **6** With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? **7** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? **8** He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly <sup>[a]</sup> with your God.

Promise -- an express assurance on which expectation is to be based:

That young man on the wall, wondering what the future holds? Is me. God has been faithful in offering me a gift. I have been fortunate to accept His gift.

Present . . .

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

**People:** Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits –

**Leader:** Who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

**People:** Who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

**Leader:** Who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**People:** The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.

**Leader:** He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:

**People:** The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

**Leader:** He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;

**People:** He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

**Leader:** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who  
fear him;

**People:** As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from  
us.

**Leader:** As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those  
who fear him;

**People:** For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

**Leader:** As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field;

**People:** The wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

**Leader:** But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him and  
his righteousness with their children's children –

**People:** With those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.

**Leader:** The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.

**People:** Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his  
word.

**Leader:** Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

**People:** Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion.

**All:** Praise the Lord, O my soul.