

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 21

Chapter twenty-one, Isaac is born! The Miracle child is born, and God has shown Abraham once again that he can trust God's promises. At circumcision, the child is named, Isaac. The word Isaac, "Yitsak" is the word of laughter, "because God made Sarah laugh and all who hear will laugh with me," verse six. Sarah nursed Isaac until the time of his weaning. As Isaac grew, his older half-brother, Ishmael, son of Hagar, Sarah's handmaid, began to taunt and mock Isaac. Sarah saw and heard the taunts and demanded that Abraham banish the boy from the presence of Isaac her son. Remember it was Sarah who asked Abraham to take Hagar and father a child. Like Adam, when Abraham gave into his wife instead of listening to God, there was trouble then and even today in our present world it is so. The sons of Ishmael, the Arab people and the sons of Isaac, the Jewish people still have enmity between them. But as is always the case, God sees it all and when Hagar and Ishmael were banished and abandoned, God had mercy. Hagar, in a desert place, saw her son was going to die and not wanting to see him die of thirst, she left the boy to die a distance from her. God saw the heart of a loving mother and had mercy on her son and showed her a well with water and their lives were spared.

Abraham obviously had favor with the God of heaven and

those who lived in the vicinity where Abraham was living at the time, near present day Beersheba. Abraham had hundreds of trained fighters and shepherds always accompanying him. This gained the attention of Abimelech, a local ruler and of his army commander, Phichol. After a period of negotiation and arguing, the two leaders made a covenant and gave oaths to each other that they would not war with one another. Because of the agreements and oaths made there, the name of the place was called "Beersheba" to this day. Beersheba means, the "Well of the Oath" or the "Well of the Seven".

Prayer and Action Steps

*Abraham and Sarah learned the hard way that trying to accomplish God's will and bring about God's promises our way, in our own strength does not work. In fact, because of their sin, the consequences of their decisions are felt four thousand years later. WOW! Pray that God will help you to understand that knowing God's will is only part of pleasing God. One must not only know God's will but allow God to bring that about in a righteous way, **in His timing**, not ours. Pray today for patience and that you will not grow weak and weary in waiting and doing what you know God would want you to do. Finally, remember we do not need to doubt when we are walking in the fog and darkness, what God has shown us in bright light. Amen*

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context? _____

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
