

CHILD OF THE PROMISE, THE STORY UNFOLDS PART 2

Genesis 21:5 “Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.”

When God speaks, He fulfills what He says. Last week we spoke about God, Jesus, and how all authority lies in Him. Because God has spoken His word, and breathed life into the scriptures, they have authority as well.

- The Bible is not primarily a book of commands to do.
- The Bible is not primarily a book of doctrines to believe.
- The Bible is not an “owner’s manual.”

It’s a narrative. It has an arc to it. Part of what the doctrine of inspiration involves, is a belief that the Bible is primarily a story because God *chose* it to be a story.

God makes promises to Abraham that he would have a son. Abraham finally gets his son, but he has another son who was born of another woman (bad decision, you can listen to audio of that message at www.ourleement.org week 27). Today, this distrust of God has ramifications that effect the world even unto today.

We must remember to trust God and that His truth and His story carries authority, even when we don’t understand it.

Last week we looked at how the trajectory of the scriptures has 5 acts.

- **Act 1 is creation:** Genesis 1-2. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
- **Act 2 is the fall:** where oppression, violence, and injustice enter the world, but God doesn’t give up; He redeems and fixes it.
- **Act 3 begins with Abraham:** He takes Abraham and promises to give Him a son “All the peoples of the earth, Abraham, will be blessed by you.”

When Abraham and Sarah finally get their boy, birthed actually through Sarah, this now starts to cause some issues. Ishmael became a mocking bully to Isaac. At 95, if you waited all this time for a kid, a bully is not good news.

Thousands of years later a descendant of Ishmael comes along (Mohammed) who has bits and pieces of the story that Abraham would have taught Ishmael about. Mohammed can’t believe that Isaac is the son of the promise NOT Ishmael and reworks the story to be about Ishmael and not about God. The new religion is

Islam (to surrender) which is little Judaism, a little Egyptian, and little of something else all sprinkled together. All these issues go back to Abraham going to bed with two women.

Through Isaac came Jesus and Christianity.

- **Act 4 is Jesus:** Everything God has been doing has all been leading to Jesus.
- **Act 5, is the church:** After Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, He ascends to the Father, sends His Spirit, then sends His followers out on a mission to the whole world to tell of the good news of God’s redemption.

To understand the scripture and what God is doing we must relate to it now, not from Act 1, not from Act 2, not from Act 3, but the culmination of Act 4, which results in the position of Act 5.

Two doctrines about the Bible:

- The doctrine of *inspiration* - scripture is inspired by God,
- The doctrine of *illumination* - the Spirit helps us understand.

Galatians 4:21-31 Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh,; while the son of the free woman was born through promise.

Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, (Old Covenant-law) bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children.

But the Jerusalem above is free, (heaven), and she is our mother. For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.”

Now you, brothers, I like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

Women’s Evening Bible Study

Tuesday 6:30pm
<http://goo.gl/gX0xK>

