

Genesis – The Life of Isaac Gen. 17:15-21

Thesis: To help us understand the blessings of the life of Isaac and how they relate to us today.

Introduction:

- A. Isaac's life started and ended with blessings.
 - 1. Isaac was a fulfillment of the blessings of Abraham.
 - 2. Isaac passed on the blessings to Jacob.

- B. Today, we will notice the blessing that Isaac was through Abraham and the blessing that he gave to Jacob and relate that to our blessings today.

I. The promise that God made to Abraham was fulfilled through Isaac.

- A. God had made a great promise to Abraham concerning his descendants.
 - 1. God had promised that Abraham would become great.
 - a. **Gen. 12:1-3** - Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. {2} I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. {3} I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
 - b. Abraham was seventy-five years old when God made this promise to Him (**Gen. 12:4**).
 - 2. Abraham had tried to speed up this promise that God had made to him.
 - a. **Gen. 16:1-4a** - Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. {2} So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. {3} Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. {4} So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.
 - b. Abraham was eighty-six years old when he bore Ishmael, eleven years after the promise was originally given (**Gen. 16:16**)
- B. After Ishmael is born to Abraham, God reiterates the promise that He made to him (**Gen. 17:1-14**).
 - 1. Notice Abraham's response to God.
 - a. **Gen. 17:15-21** - Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. {16} And I will bless her and also give you a son by her;

then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.” {17} Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” {18} And Abraham said to God, “Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!” {19} Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. {20} And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. {21} But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.”

- b. Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised (Gen. 17:24).
2. God fulfills this promise to Abraham by giving him Isaac.
 - a. Gen. 21:3-8 - And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him-- whom Sarah bore to him-- Isaac. {4} Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. {5} Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. {6} And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me.” {7} She also said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age.” {8} So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.
 - b. It is important to note that God felt so strongly about Isaac that He called him the only son of Abraham.
 - 1) Gen. 22:2 - And He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”
 - 2) We know that Ishmael was still alive; however, it was Isaac that was the son of the promise.

II. We are not told of many things that happened in the life of Isaac.

A. Throughout the life of Isaac, we see some of the blessings that God had given him.

1. He was blessed with Rebekah as his wife (Gen. 24).
2. Isaac was blessed with two nations in his womb, Jacob (Israel) and Esau (Edom) (Gen. 25:19-28).
3. Isaac followed in the sin of Abraham when he lied to Abimelech, king of the Philistines (Gen. 26).

B. This is the only part of the middle of the life of Isaac that we know about.

III. At the end of the life of Isaac, He continues the promise of God by blessing his son, Jacob (Gen. 27:1-40).

A. Notice the context of the blessing that Isaac gives to Jacob (Gen. 27:1-27a).

1. Jacob tells Esau to go into the field and hunt game for him (27:1-4).
2. Rebekah overhears what Isaac said to Esau and she tells Jacob to deceive his father (27:5-17).
 - a. Jacob kills the two goats and Rebekah prepares them for Isaac so that he will bless Jacob instead of Esau.
 - b. She also tells him to put on the clothes of Esau and some of the goats hair so that he would smell and feel like Esau.
 - c. Jacob then takes it to Isaac, just as he had commanded Esau to do.
3. Jacob pretends to be Esau when he comes before his father with the food that is prepared (27:18-27a).
 - a. When Jacob first approaches Isaac, Isaac wonders how he prepared this so quickly.
 - 1) Jacob claims to be Esau.
 - 2) He also says that God gave him the game so quickly.
 - b. When Isaac wants to feel Jacob, he feels the hairy hands and he did not recognize him as Jacob.
 - c. Isaac then takes and eats the food and prepares to bless his son.

B. Notice the actual blessing that Isaac gives to Jacob (Gen. 27:27b-29).

1. Isaac's blessing to Jacob is that God will give him the fruits of the earth (27:27b-28).
 - a. Certainly, God was going to bless the children of Jacob (or Israel) with great possessions
 - b. This was fulfilled when they came into the land of Canaan.
2. Isaac also blesses Jacob in that other nations will bow down and serve him (27:29).
 - a. This is perhaps the greater of the blessings.
 - b. Other nations were going to serve Jacob (Israel).
 - 1) Again, we see this fulfilled when Israel leaves Egypt and enters the promised land.
 - 2) Other nations served them because they were great and powerful.

C. Because Isaac blessed Jacob with these great things, Esau was not blessed as prominently as Jacob (27:30-40).

Practical Application:

IV. Just like Isaac, our life is surrounded by blessings.

- A. These blessings come in the beginning, middle, and end of our life.
 - 1. We are blessed physically and spiritually.
 - 2. We are blessed by the families that we are born into.
 - 3. We are blessed by the things that we obtain apart from our families.
 - 4. There are always blessings to be had.
- B. However, none of these blessings matter if we are not a child of God.
 - 1. The point is that we must be a child of God in order to go to heaven.
 - a. Being a child of Abraham meant nothing unless you were a child of Isaac.
 - b. Being a child of Isaac meant nothing unless you were a child of Jacob.
 - c. The point is this: Being a child of anyone does not mean anything unless you are a child of God.
 - 2. This is exactly what Paul tells the church in Rome.
 - a. **Rom. 9:6-13** - But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, {7} nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” {8} That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. {9} For this is the word of promise: “At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.” {10} And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac {11} (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), {12} it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” {13} As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”
 - b. Remember what happened to Israel when they rejected God.
 - 1) They were carried away into captivity by the Assyrians and the Babylonians.
 - 2) They also had the gospel removed from them because they did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - 3) The fact that they were from Abraham meant nothing because they were not children of God.
 - 4) In order to be pleasing to God, we must be His child.

Conclusion:

- A. Today, those who are children of God are considered to be children of Abraham.
- B. Are you a child of Abraham?