

Genesis

Chapter 21:1-7

☞ **Gen 21:1-7** ¹ *And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.* ² *For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.* ³ *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."*

Verses 1 & 2 reminds us that God will do what He said He would. Notice is says:

☞ ¹ *And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.* ² *For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.* (underlined for emphasis)

The original promise was made back in chapter 12 and here it is 9 chapters later that the Lord's word comes to pass. Or another way to look at would be that Abraham was 75 in chapter 12 when God made the original promise:

† **Gen 12:2 & 4** *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.* ⁴ *So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.* (underlined for emphasis)

And here it is 25 years later that God's promise came to pass.

☞ *Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.*

God also told them a year in advance when Isaac was going to be born.

† **Gen 18:10** (NLT) *Then one of them said, "About this time next year I will return, and your wife Sarah will have a son."* *Now Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent nearby.* (underlined for emphasis)

Also God also told them what to name the child.

† **Gen 17:19** *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.* (underlined for emphasis)

So what does all of this mean to us today?

Simply that when God makes a promise, He keeps it. If He didn't, then we would have to worry if God would keep His promise of eternal life for us through His Son Jesus. But we don't have to worry because He promised eternal life to those who would believe.

† **John 3:16-17** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."*

† **Acts 13:23** *From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior--Jesus--*

† **1 John 2:25** *And this is the promise that He has promised us--eternal life.*

† **Gal 3:22 (NLT)** *But the Scriptures have declared that we are all prisoners of sin, so the only way to receive God's promise is to believe in Jesus Christ.*

† **Heb 6:13-14** *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."*

† **1 Kings 8:56** *"Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses."*

† **Acts 1:4-5** *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

Yes the promise of eternal life through His Son Jesus is something we can believe and know to be true because God said it and God cannot lie!

† **Titus 1:** *in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.* (underlined for emphasis)

✠ **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."*

The word laughter here is the same word used back in chapter 18 when Sarah was laughing in mockery towards God. But in a different context, the same word means "laughter" or what we would call joy as we see in the NLT.

✠ **Gen 21:6-7 (NLT)** *And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter! All who hear about this will laugh with me. For who would have dreamed that I would ever have a baby? Yet I have given Abraham a son in his old age!"*

Who would have dreamed that after 90 years of age, Sarah would have a child? We ask ourselves the same thing of our lives. "Who would have believed that a murderer, or drug user, or porno star, or a hater of Christians or even that I would be saved?"

✠ **Matt 19:25-26** *When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

Yes through God all things are possible. But did you also notice that Sarah's words the whole time were not words of someone with great faith. No, she even doubted and somewhat mocked God and His promise of a child. But still God's word does not come back void or empty. He does not give false hope or promises.

Some people say, "You just don't have enough faith, that's why God is not answering your prayers."

Jesus has an answer for that also.

✠ **Mark 9:23-29** ²³ *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."* ²⁴ *Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"* ²⁵ *When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"* ²⁶ *Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead."* ²⁷ *But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.* ²⁸ *And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"* ²⁹ *So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."*

Notice Jesus didn't say, "You just didn't have enough faith." Jesus says all you need is a little faith to move mountains.

✠ **Matt 17:20-21** *So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*

This is the same instance as we saw in the book of Mark, but Matthew adds just how much faith Jesus is talking about, and that it's not just by faith, but by prayer and fasting.

"But I have prayed and fasted and still God doesn't answer me." You may be thinking.

Remember that prayer is not God conforming to our will, but rather God conforming us to His will. Also remember that “no” is an answer as well as “wait”.

God is not a genie or Santa Claus where we can just ask for what we want, but rather God blesses as He wills.

† **1 Cor 12:11** *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

✎ **6** *And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me."*

When we are blessed by God we are so happy, and God does not want us miserable. But even when we sometimes are miserable we blame God for our misery.

God made a promise to Abraham and Sarah, but they just didn't want to wait on God's promise, so they tried it their own way with Hagar, Sarah's handmaid. And the results were they were unhappy.

† **Gen 16:5 (NLT)** *Then Sarai said to Abram, "It's all your fault! Now this servant of mine is pregnant, and she despises me, though I myself gave her the privilege of sleeping with you. The LORD will make you pay for doing this to me!"*

Remember Abraham and Sarah got in an argument because they didn't trust in God or listen to His word. The end results were they were both miserable and unhappy. And Sarah was angry to the point of wanting to kill Hagar.

But as soon as they received God's blessing, there is joy, so much in fact that Sarah knows this joy will spread out to others.

✎ **6b** *"and all who hear will laugh with me."*

So we have two choices. Do things our way and be miserable and have others around us miserable also, or do things God's way and have joy which will spread out to others. The choice is yours!