

=EVENTS FROM GENESIS=

Lesson 10

The Birth of Isaac

AIM: to teach my pupils the facts and meaning of the birth of Isaac.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils to laugh all together. Then ask them to give you the different reasons people laugh; for example, the laughter of joy, the laughter of humor, the laughter of mocking, the laughter of unbelief, etc. The reason for this is that the word "Isaac" means "laughter." He was named this because both his mother and father laughed upon hearing of his coming birth, though their laughter was prompted by quite different motives or stimuli.

INTRODUCTION: It had been many years since Abraham had received the promise from the Lord that He would make of him a great nation (as we read in Genesis 12:2), and that He would make his seed as the dust of the earth. See Genesis 13:16. Now the Lord comes to fulfill this promise when Abraham is 100 years old and Sarah is over 90.

I. THE BIRTH OF ISAAC PRACTICALLY.

1. God keeps His promises according to His own schedule. Notice the phrase about the "set time" and the "time appointed" in these verses. Genesis 21:2 says, "For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, **at the set time** of which God had spoken to him." Genesis 17:21, "...which Sarah shall bear unto thee **at this set time** in the next year." Genesis 18:14b, "**At the time appointed**...Sarah shall have a son." God has His way and time to fulfill His promises.
2. God EXACTLY fulfills His promises. We may rest upon what God says, even though it seems impossible. More is said about Isaac's birth than that of any other person in the Bible except Jesus Christ.
3. God does the impossible to keep His promises. Nothing is too hard for Him!
4. Abraham laughed a laughter of faith and joy when he was reminded of Isaac's coming birth. Whereas Sarah's was the laughter of unbelief, Abraham's was a shout of praise. Note the laughter mentioned in Psalm 126:1, 2. May we have the laughter of Abraham's faith, not the laughter of Sarah's unbelief.

II. THE BIRTH OF ISAAC PROPHETICALLY. Abraham is the father of two nations. He is the father of the nation of Israel by Isaac; he is also the father of the Arabs by Ishmael. Ishmael's mother was an Egyptian, Hagar, which made Ishmael half Egyptian and half Jew. Through Ishmael, Abraham is the father of all present-day Arabs. Through Isaac, Abraham is the father of all present-day Jews. When Isaac was born, Ishmael mocked. See Galatians 4:29. Paul says in Galatians that Ishmael persecuted Isaac. This was the beginning of a problem that exists unto this day. Ishmael (the Arabs) can claim the land of Canaan because he was Abraham's Jewish son. Their descendants have fought for the land since that day, and even now, Jerusalem is divided between them.

III. THE BIRTH OF ISAAC TYPICALLY.

1. Isaac's birth is a type of Jesus Christ.
  - 1) Isaac was a promised seed and son. Read Genesis 17:16. So was Christ. Read Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14.
  - 2) Much time elapsed between God's promise of Isaac's coming and his actual birth. The same is true with Christ.
  - 3) When Isaac's birth was announced, his mother asked, "Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?" Genesis 18:13b. Likewise, Mary said, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" Luke 1:34b.
  - 4) God's answer to the mothers was the same. In Genesis 18:14a, the Lord answered Sarah, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD?" He answered Mary, "For with God nothing shall be impossible," Luke 1:37.
  - 5) Isaac's name was given before he was born. See Genesis 17:19b, "...thou shalt call his name Isaac...." The same is true with Christ. See Matthew 1:21, "...and thou shalt call his name JESUS...."

- 6) Isaac's birth took place at God's designated time. Notice the words, "set time," in Genesis 21:2 and the words, "fulness of the time," in Galatians 4:4.
2. Isaac's birth was a type of salvation.
  - 1) The womb of Sarah was dead, so says the Scripture. A lost person is dead in his sins.
  - 2) Humanly, there was nothing that could be done to bring forth Isaac. There is nothing that man can do to bring forth salvation.
  - 3) Man's part is faith; God does the rest.
  - 4) Though Abraham and Sarah had nothing to do with producing the birth of Isaac, nevertheless God did use human instrumentality. The same is true with salvation. Though God does all the saving, He uses the soul winners, preachers, etc. to bring it about.
  - 5) Immediately upon his birth, Isaac was opposed. The same is true with salvation. The Christian may expect opposition from the evil one.
  - 6) A constant warfare was started upon Isaac's birth. When a person is saved, a warfare between the old nature and the new nature is begun.