

The Departure of Hagar and Ishmael

Genesis 21:1-21

by Don Falkos

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Abraham was a hundred years old when, at exactly the time God had promised, Sarah gave birth to a son. Abraham named him Isaac, and Sarah was delighted.

When Isaac was old enough to eat regular food, Abraham threw a party. But when Sarah saw Ishmael laughing at Isaac and making fun of him, she went to Abraham and said, "Get rid of that Egyptian slave woman and her son. I don't want him to inherit anything. It should all go to my son."

Abraham was distressed. But God said, "Abraham, don't worry. I will take care of Hagar and Ishmael. Do as Sarah tells you."

Early the next morning Abraham gave Hagar some food and an animal skin full of water. Then he sent them on their way.

Hagar and Ishmael wandered in the desert until their water ran out. Hagar couldn't bear to watch her son die, so she left Ishmael in the shade of a bush and sat down a long way off. Both she and the boy wept bitterly.

God heard them and sent a message to Hagar, "Don't worry. Don't be afraid. I am going to make your son the father of a great nation." God showed Hagar a well, where she filled the skin with water. Then she gave her son a drink.

As Ishmael grew into adulthood, he became an expert with the bow and arrow. He lived in the desert, and Hagar chose an Egyptian woman for him to marry.