

7 • The Beginning of the Chosen Family Line

In [Genesis 20](#), Abraham gets himself in trouble again by saying of Sarah his wife, “**She is my _____**” while he sojourned in Gerar. When Abimelech, king of Gerar, took Sarah, God strongly warned him in a dream and he returned Sarah to Abraham, but Abimelech wanted to know why. Why had Abraham deceived him? Listen to Abraham’s reply:

“I did it because I thought, ‘There is no _____ of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.’” (20:11)

We’ll return to that statement and discuss it together as a class in just a little while. In [Genesis 21](#), _____ years after God had called them to go “to the land that I will show you” and promised to make “of” Abram “a great nation” (12:1-4), _____ was born to Abraham and Sarah. His name means, “_____.”

But [Genesis 21:8-21](#) also documents an ugly incident within Abraham’s family. When Sarah saw _____, the son of Hagar the Egyptian (the firstborn son of Abraham) laughing at Isaac, she told Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be _____ with my son Isaac.” God provides for Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness and promises both Abraham and Hagar that he will make “a great nation” of Ishmael. But God is also clear with Abraham: “through Isaac shall your offspring be _____.”

In [Genesis 22](#), Abraham faces the greatest test of his trust in God.

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of _____, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” (22:1-2)

So Abraham rose early in the morning and went on a three-day journey.

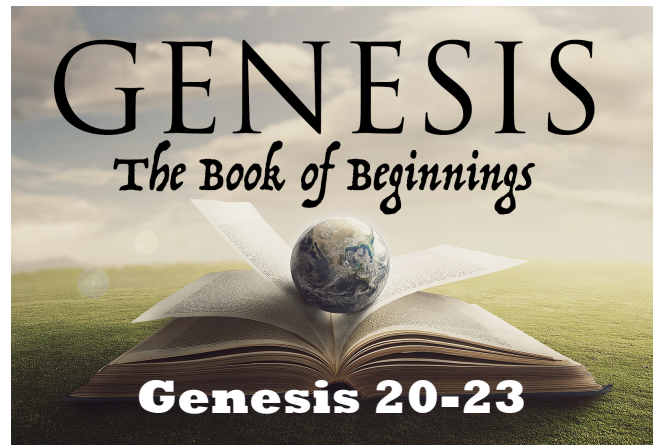
We can hear his faith when Isaac asked about the lamb for the burnt offering: “God will _____ for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son” (22:8). At the pivotal moment, an angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and stopped him.

“Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear _____, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” (22:12)

Once again, God promises Abraham...

“...I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall _____ the _____ of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” (22:16-18)

In [Genesis 23](#), at the age of 127, Sarah died at Hebron in the land of Canaan. Abraham purchases a field with a cave that will come to be the place where many members of his family are eventually buried—the first (and only) piece of the Promised Land he could actually call his own.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- What do you make of Abraham's explanation for his deception in [Genesis 20:11](#)? Why did he do what he did?
- [Genesis 20:7](#) is the first time we run across the word *prophet* in the Bible. What did God mean when he told Abimelech that Abraham was "a prophet"?
- What can we learn from [Genesis 20](#)?
- What does the name *Isaac* mean? And why did God call for him to have that name?
- Is there anything we can learn from the ugly incident described in [Genesis 21:8-21](#)?
- Think about the first words in [Genesis 22](#)—"After these things God tested Abraham." Why would God do such a thing? What good can come from "tests"?
- Abraham is called by God to "go to the land of Moriah" ([22:2](#)). What's the significance of this geographical area in other eras of the Bible?
- Take a careful look at Abraham's statements in [22:1-8](#). Is there anything that stands out to you? How does [Hebrews 11:17-19](#) deepen our understanding of what was going on in Abraham's heart?
- In [Genesis 23](#), Sarah dies and Abraham purchases "the cave of Machpelah." What members of this family will eventually be buried in this cave?
- Let's end by thinking about [Hebrews 11:13](#). What do we need to carry with us from that summary?