

## **Genesis 21:1-21**

### **What's Best for Us**

#### **Introduction:**

Sometimes in the Christian life we become distressed about unfortunate circumstances. From our point of view we cannot understand why this is happening to me? As we see from our text God commands Abraham not to be distressed – v.12. God commands his servant to do specific things but does not usually tell us why. The why of doing is not always clear at the outset, but we discover later that God's way was best for us.

We are urged by the apostle to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice. It becomes our spiritual service of worship. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

#### **I. The Birth of Isaac – v.1-8**

##### **A. Humanly impossible – Gen. 18:19**

1. God is not in a hurry to carry out His plan – Isa. 28:16
2. A. W. Pink's comment

##### **B. God's Appointed Time – Gal. 4:4,5**

1. Isaac a miracle child – Rom. 4:19,20; Heb. 11:11

##### **C. Parallels of Isaac and Jesus:**

1. Isaac was the promised seed and son – Gen. 17:16 as was Jesus – Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14
2. Isaac's birth was announced beforehand as was Jesus – Luke 1:34,37
3. Isaac's name was specified before he was born as was Jesus – Matt. 1:21
4. Isaac's birth occurred at God's appointed time as was Jesus – Gal. 4:4
5. Isaac's birth was a miracle as was Jesus – Matt. 1:20
6. Isaac's name means "laughter" (Abraham's delight) as Jesus name the Father was "well pleased" Matt. 17:5

##### **D. Isaac a type of regeneration – Eph. 2:1; 4:18; I Cor. 2:14; John 3:3; John 5:24**

#### **II. The Departure of Ishmael – v. 9-21**

##### **A. Ishmael "mocked" Isaac**

1. Tension in the household – v.10
2. God takes Sarah's side – v. Isa. 55:8,9

##### **B. Separations in the Christians life:**

1. God's desire is to choose what's best for us.
2. God knows the future and sometimes prevents us from carrying out our own plan lest we ruin our reputation or spiritual walk with Christ.
3. God is preparing Abraham for the supreme test, the sacrifice of Isaac.

#### **Conclusion:**

*The Old Testament teaches us about the doctrine of salvation – **Turn To: Galatians 4:21-31***

1. *The Old Testament teaching of Grace versus works.*
2. *Note. Paul's gospel from Genesis 21*

