

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

Title:

The Child of Promise

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 21:1-21

**Theme:** Reject false saviors to fully embrace the Son of Promise.

**Introduction:** Pain in our lives has a way of revealing where we place our true hope. Whether the pain is physical or relational, disappointment and discouragement can come out when our desired solutions don't provide lasting relief and satisfaction. We tend to look to false saviors, which are anything or anyone I place my hope in more than in God to meet a need.

Genesis 21 shows us how to turn from false saviors and to the Lord:

### 1. The son of promise is born (1-7)

Though impossible from a human level, the Lord did fulfill his promise of a son to Sarah. He performed a miracle in her body: by his power, personally, according to his word, and in his perfect timing.

The Lord did a greater miracle in Sarah's soul, taking her from laughing at the thought of a child to trusting in the Lord and in his redeeming work in her life. Isaac is named 'laughter,' and that word is no longer bitter for her, but a source of great joy. After Isaac's birth, he was circumcised (the first infant to be so). His circumcision shows the objective nature of the covenant and the power of God to save his people.

### 2. The true son of promise identified (8-14)

Ishmael & Hagar are rejected and sent out by Abraham. At first, this seems unfair to us, but we must realize Ishmael's laughter was persecution of Isaac (Gal 4:29). The Lord drove them away in order to preserve his chosen line, the child of promise, and Ishmael had represented a threat to that (Gen 16:17).

Abraham did not initially like the solution, but the Lord corrected him and he responded humbly by obeying the Lord "early in the morning" (14).

The Lord also vindicated Sarah and her counsel to expel them. Sarah was right because she was agreeing with the revealed will of the Lord.

### 3. God's mercy displayed (15-21)

Though they were sent out, the Lord did not forget Hagar and Ishmael. When they were near death, he showed them mercy and preserved their lives.

The problem is that though Ishmael had many earthly advantages (raised in Abraham's home, circumcised, taught about God, godly father, witness to miracles, he did not show any fear of the Lord. He was spiritually deaf.

Still the Lord showed him mercy, preserving his life and promising to make him a great nation. If he would've responded humbly, he could've been forgiven.

**Questions:**

1. What are you hoping for? What will make you happy?
2. Who do you trust? Whose voice(s)/approval matters most to you?
3. How does Jesus promise to meet you in your personal trials and struggles?