

## Walking Through the Word

Creation to Judges (Week 4)

---

Story: **Cast Out** (E: Hagar and Ishmael, p 32-33)

Location: **Genesis 21:1-21**

### Bios & definitions

**Hagar:** mother of Ishmael; sent out from Abraham's household because Sarah saw Ishmael "mocking" Isaac; received a word from an angel of the LORD that Ishmael would be a great nation; she secured a wife for him from Egypt

**Ishmael:** mocked Isaac on the day of his "weaning" and was sent out from Abraham's household with his mother; when water ran out on the journey, he sat beneath a tree and wept; God heard Ishmael's cries and promised to make him a great nation; he settled with his mother in the Desert of Paran; became an archer

**Isaac:** born to Sarah at 90 and Abraham at 100; God said Isaac was the one "through whom [Abraham's] offspring would be named" (21:12) His name means "he laughs" as a fulfillment of proclamation to Abraham (17:19), and after both Abraham and Sarah's response to the proclamation.

NOTE: **Abimilech** – king of Gerar, a Philistine land in which Abraham dwelt following the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, a city of Arabia Petraea; his name means "my father king," and it appears he was a righteous man (for though he was not of Abraham's family, he had knowledge of God, and the Gerarites were known as *goi tsaddik*, a righteous nation (20:4)

Prior to the story of Isaac's birth, and also earlier in Genesis (chapter 12) we find two accounts where Abraham is deceptive about his relationship with Sarah by introducing her as his "sister" (a *technically* true story, since they share the same father but not the same mother, see 20:12); Abraham does this for the sake of protection of his family in unfamiliar lands, but in both cases God gives clear indication (once to Pharaoh, through plagues (12:17), and once to Abimilech, through a dream (20:3)) that Sarah is not to be touched or harmed because she belongs to another man

Story: **Sacrifice of a Son** (E: Abraham Offers Isaac, p 33-34)

Location: **Genesis 22:1-19**

### Bios & definitions

**Moriah:** the mount on which Abraham was called to sacrifice Isaac; "*according to tradition*, it became the location of the Temple mount; today the Dome of the Rock stands on top of it, with a large rock under it on which Abraham had placed Isaac after binding him" (from Complete Word Study Dictionary)

**ram:** the substitutionary sacrifice provided by God to save Isaac from being slain on the altar built by his father in obedience to God's command

**Jehovah-Jireh:** the name Abraham gave to the place where he built an altar of sacrifice and where the ram was found in a thicket to replace his son Isaac; it literally means *The LORD will provide*

## Walking Through the Word

---

Creation to Judges (Week 4)

Story: **Isaac Marries** (E: A Wife for Isaac, p 36-39)

Location: **Genesis 23:1-25:18**

### Bios & definitions

**Rebekah:** daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milcah bore to Nahor; this makes Rebekah's grandfather Abraham's brother; her name loosely translated means "fettered by beauty" and is described as "very beautiful" in Scripture (24:16); the wife of Isaac and the mother of Jacob and Esau; chosen by God through Abraham's servant Eliezer for her attitude of service.

**Eliezer:** chief servant sent by Abraham to seek out a wife for Isaac; swore to only return to Abraham's country to find a bride, and not to choose a woman from among the Canaanites; prayed to God for success in finding a suitable spouse for Isaac (24:12-14)

**Laban:** brother of Rebekah's who returns to the well to bring Eliezer and his camels and servants back to the household for the night

**Abraham's Death:** Abraham lived to be 175 years old; he had several other children and took good care of them, but left everything he owned to Isaac; his death brought Isaac and Ishmael back together to show their respect and love for their father in giving him a proper burial in the cave of Machpelah near Mamre (where Sarah was also buried, a plot for which Abraham paid 400 shekels of silver).