

Genesis 21

Pastor Tommy Bailey

June 13, 2021



SERMON NOTES

Genesis 21

Is there something sure and steady I can hold on to?

Three times we are reminded of the surety of God's word:

- 21:1 - "The Lord visited Sarah *as He had said...*"
- 21:1 - "...The Lord did to Sarah *as he had promised.*"
- 21:2 - Sarah bore a son "...at the time of which *God had spoken...*"

God's promise to Abraham, stated and restated:

- 12:2 - "I will make of you a great nation..."
- 12:7 - "To your offspring I will give this land..."
- 13:16 - "I will make your offspring as dust of the earth..."
- 15:4 - "Your very own son shall be your heir..."
- 17:4 - "You shall be the father to a multitude of nations..."
- 17:19 - "Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac..."
- 18:10 - "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son..."

There is a hunger that can only be satisfied by the word of God.

"Love is patient..."

- 1 Corinthians 13:4

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from **every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"

- Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV, *emphasis added*)

Genesis 21

Is there something sure and steady I can hold on to?

1. The provision of God is generous and abundant.
2. The timing of God is neither slow nor fast, but good.
3. The faithfulness of God is sure and steady.

The entire story of the Bible, all of redemption history, is a story of *our need* and *God's provision*.

- Gift of children (v. 1)
- Gift of laughter (v. 5)
- A way forward for a dysfunctional and broken family (v. 12)
- Water for Hagar and Ishmael (v. 19)
- Water supply for Abraham and his clan (v. 30)
- Peace with Abimelech (v. 32)

“Do not let us think of prayer as the coaxing or the conquering of a reluctant friend, but rather as the confident appeal to One who is always wise, and always willing to give us what is best for us.”

- Theodore Cuyler

“God never promises that our seasons of waiting will end by receiving exactly what we want. Not all infertility ends with a baby. Not all cancer ends with a cure. Not all singleness ends with a spouse. Which means that our hope can't be anchored in the thing we're waiting for. Our hope has to be anchored in something far greater—the promises and character of God.”

- Courtney Doctor

“Christians are people of hope and not despair. Because we know that God, who had the first word, will have the last. He is never thwarted or caught napping by the circumstances of our lives. To have faith in Jesus does not mean we try to pretend that bad things are really good. Rather, we know that God will take our difficulties and weave them into purposes we cannot see as yet.”

- Rebecca Manley Pippert, *Hope Has Its Reasons*