

ISAAC

Genesis 21:3

Introduction: An impossible birth yet nothing is impossible with God which the birth of Isaac proved with his mother being in her 90's and his father close to 100 years old when he was born. This study briefly outlines the life of Isaac and how the hand of God was there from his birth to his death.

1. The meaning of his name: "He laugheth" or "the laughing one."

2. Basic Scriptures: *Genesis 17:19-21; 18:10-15; Chapters 21-27; Hebrews 11:17-20; James 2:21-23*

3. His family background:

- The son of Abraham and Sarah.
- He was born when Abraham (father) was 100 and Sarah (mother) was 91 years old.
- When God made the promise of a son to them, Sarah and Abraham laughed.
- God selected the name "Isaac" for them to name their son.

4. What the Old Testament records about Isaac:

(1) The Offering of Isaac by Abraham (*Genesis 22*)

- Isaac's age was not given, but possibly as young as a small boy or as old as in his 30's.
- How could God raise up a nation from Abraham if Abraham sacrificed his son?
 - This was a test God was putting Abraham through and he passed.
- Isaac asked only one question throughout the whole thing, "*...where is the lamb for the burn offering?*"
- Abraham told his son that "*God will provide Himself, a Lamb...*"
- Note that both Abraham and Isaac were obedient to God's will.

(2) Things to notice at this point in Isaac's life:

- Isaac's birth points to the birth of Jesus in that:
 - both had been promised.
 - announcements of the coming births were unusual.
 - both were named before birth.
 - both were born at God's appointed time.
 - both were miraculous.

(3) A Bride was chosen for Isaac (*Genesis 24*)

- Abraham sent a servant back to his family to find a bride for Isaac. (*Genesis 24:10*)
- God directed the servant to Rebekah who went willingly back to Isaac. (*Genesis 24:15*)
- There was a custom for choosing a bride.

(4) Isaac was given two sons (*Genesis 25:19-34*)

- Twins were born to Isaac when he was 60 years old.
- They were born "fighting."
- Esau was born first and was reddish in color.

- Jacob was God's choice even though he was born second.
- Isaac favored Esau, an outdoors kind of person and Rebekah favored Jacob who preferred to stay around the house.
- Being firstborn, the birthright belonged to Esau but he wasn't really interested in such matters.
 - Control and head of the family upon Isaac's death would pass on to him.
 - The greater part of any inheritance would be his also.
 - For a bowl of red pottage from Jacob, Esau traded away his birthright and his name from then on was called **Edom**.

(5) The Covenant Confirmed to Isaac (*Genesis 26*)

- God renewed the covenant with Isaac which He had made with Abraham, Isaac's father.
- Isaac repeated the same thing his father had done - he misrepresented Rebekah (his wife) as being his sister.
- Isaac became a digger of wells and God blessed him and repeated the promises of the covenant.

(6) The Stolen Blessing (*Genesis 27*)

- Isaac knew that God wanted Jacob to rule instead of Esau, but he planned to go around God.
 - Isaac sent Esau to bring in some favorite meat so that he might bless Esau.
 - Rebekah learned of Isaac's plan and tricked Isaac into blessing Jacob instead.
- After deceiving Isaac, Jacob fled to his uncle Laban's (his mother's brother).
- Esau went to his uncle Ishmael (his father's brother) and married one of his daughters (cousin).
- Isaac and Rebekah had now lost both sons and she never saw Jacob again and Isaac died shortly after.

5. What the New Testament records about Isaac:

(1) *Romans 4:1-4, 13-24; Galatians 3:16-18*

(2) *Hebrews 11:17-20; 9:9; John 8:56*

(3) *James 2:21-23*

CONCLUSION:

1. What God promises, He always does, even if it takes years and years.
2. What God requires of us, we should do, knowing that He knows best.
3. Faith is not optional for God's Children. Is your faith as much as Abraham's?
4. Trickery and scheming only brings heartache to anybody who tries to bypass God's plans.