



GENESIS

PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

today

PHASE 2 – HEIGHTENED ALERT

From May 16 - June 13



Social gatherings

- Group sizes up to 2 pax.
- Up to 2 unique household visitors a day.
- Grandchildren being cared for by grandparents need not be included in the number of household visitors.



F&B sector

Dining-in to cease; only takeaways allowed.



Workplace

- Work-from-home as the default option.
- No cross-deployment.

Source: Ministry of Health













GENESIS

PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Genesis 12:11–13

“I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me, but they will let you live.

Genesis 12:11–13

Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake.”

Genesis 20:12

Besides, she is indeed **my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother**, and she became my wife.



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

25 years later in chapter 20:



25 years later in chapter 20:

[2] And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, **"She is my sister."**
And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

The Déjà vu Message

Genesis 20-21



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

1. The Folly

Genesis 20:11

Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, 'There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.'"



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

1. The Folly



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

2. The Forestalling

25 years ago in Genesis 12:17



25 years ago in Genesis 12:17

But the LORD afflicted ...



25 years ago in Genesis 12:17

But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

25 years later in Genesis 20:



25 years later in Genesis 20:

[3] But God came to Abimelech in a **dream** by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

25 years later in Genesis 20:

[3] But God came to Abimelech in a **dream** by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

[18] For the LORD had **closed all the wombs** of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah...

Why?

Genesis 12:3

...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



Genesis 12:7

“To your offspring I will give this land.”



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Genesis 13:15–16

for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.

Genesis 15:4

“This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” ...

Genesis 17:19

... Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

Genesis 18:10

**“I will surely return to you about this time next year,
and Sarah your wife shall have a son.”**

25 years later in Genesis 20:

[3] But God came to Abimelech in a **dream** by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

[18] For the LORD had **closed all the wombs** of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah...

Genesis 20:14

Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him.



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Why?



Why?

Not anything to do with Abraham or what he has done,



Why?

Not anything to do with Abraham or what he has done,
but everything to do with God & His promises

Why?

Not anything to do with Abraham or what he has done,
but everything to do with God & His promises
(indeed, in spite of what Abraham has done)

Why?

Not anything to do with us or what we have done,
but everything to do with God & His promises
(indeed, in spite of what we have done)

Ephesians 1:5–6

... he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the **praise of his glorious grace...**



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Ephesians 1:12

so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might
be **to the praise of his glory.**

Ephesians 1:14

who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we
acquire possession of it, **to the praise of his glory.**



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Romans 9:22–23

What if God, desiring to **show his wrath and to make known his power**, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

Romans 9:22–23

What if God, desiring to **show his wrath and to make known his power**, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

in order **to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy**, which he has prepared beforehand for glory

Isaiah 48:9–11

“For my name’s sake I defer my anger;
for the sake of **my praise** I restrain it for you...

Isaiah 48:9–11

“For my name’s sake I defer my anger;
for the sake of **my praise** I restrain it for you...

For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,
for how should **my name** be profaned?
My glory I will not give to another.



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Why?

Not anything to do with us or what we have done,
but everything to do with God & His promises

Why?

Not that this should encourage us to sin...

Why?

But God's faithfulness is not based on **our** worthiness,
but on **His** worthiness.



GENESIS

PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

2. The Forestalling



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

3. The Fulfilment

Genesis 21:1–2

The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.

Genesis 21:1–2

The LORD visited Sarah **as he had said**, and the LORD did to Sarah **as he had promised**. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of **which God had spoken** to him.



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

4. The Foreshadowing

Genesis 21:8–9

And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.

Genesis 21:8–9

But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, **laughing**.

Genesis 21:10

So she said to Abraham,
“**Cast out this slave woman with her son,**
for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir
with my son Isaac.”

Genesis 21:11

And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son.



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Genesis 21:12

But God said to Abraham, “Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, **do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named.**”

Galatians 4:22–23

For it is written that Abraham had two sons,
one by a slave woman and one by a free woman.



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Galatians 4:22–23

**But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh,
while the son of the free woman was born through promise.**

Ishmael

Isaac



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Ishmael

Born of the flesh

Isaac

Born of promise



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Ishmael

Born of the flesh
Man's works

Isaac

Born of promise
God's work

Ishmael

Born of the flesh
Man's works
Slave of the Law

Isaac

Born of promise
God's work
Free from the Law

Ishmael

Born of the flesh
Man's works
Slave of the Law

Isaac

Born of promise
God's work
Free from the Law

Ishmael represents man's futile slavery to the Law,

Ishmael

Born of the flesh
Man's works
Slave of the Law

Isaac

Born of promise
God's work
Free from the Law

Ishmael represents man's futile slavery to the Law,
Isaac represents God's grace to save apart from our fulfilling the Law

Galatians 4:29

But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh **persecuted** him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.

Galatians 4:30–31

But what does the Scripture say?

“Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.”

Galatians 4:30–31

But what does the Scripture say?

“Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.”

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.



GENESIS
PROMISE OF A MULTITUDE

Ishmael

Born of the flesh
Man's works
Slave of the Law

Isaac

Born of promise
God's work
Free from the Law

Ishmael represents man's futile slavery to the Law,
Isaac represents God's grace to save apart from our fulfilling the Law

Ishmael

Born of the flesh
Man's works
Slave of the Law
Persecutes

Isaac

Born of promise
God's work
Free from the Law
Persecuted

Ishmael

Born of the flesh
Man's works
Slave of the Law
Persecutes
Rejected

Isaac

Born of promise
God's work
Free from the Law
Persecuted
Accepted

The emphasis is man's unfaithfulness vs God's faithfulness.



The emphasis is man's unfaithfulness vs God's faithfulness.

God's faithfulness is not predicated
on *our* worthiness, but on *His* worthiness.

The emphasis is man's unfaithfulness vs God's faithfulness.

God's faithfulness is not predicated
on *our* worthiness, but on *His* worthiness.

"Isaacs" will stay, but "Ishmaels" will go.
It is by grace alone.