

**God Made Sarah Laugh, So Don't Laugh at Isaac (Genesis 21:1-21; 26:1-5)**  
**Yielded Christian Ambassadors Class: Englewood Bible Church, Dr. John Niemelä, 10-20-13**  
**INTRODUCTION**

**(21:1-2) God kept His promise to Sarah that she would bear a son to aged Abraham**

**(21:3) Abraham called his son Isaac ("He Will Laugh")**

Genesis 17:17

Genesis 18:12–13, 15

Genesis 21:6

**(21:4) Abraham circumcised Isaac at eight days according to God's command [Gen 17:12]**

**(21:5) Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born**

**(21:6) Sarah proclaimed that God made her laugh and that would laugh with her**

**(21:7) Sarah expressed amazement at giving birth in her old age**

**(21:8) Abraham hosted a great feast the day that Isaac was weaned**

Abram was 86 when Ishmael was born Gen 16:16

Ishmael's age = 0

He was 100 when Isaac was born (Gen 21:5)

Ishmael's age ≈ 14

Age of weaning in Israel was at 2-3

Ishmael's age ≈ 16-17

**(21:9) Sarah saw Ishmael, Hagar's son, mocking Isaac**

The word scoffed (or mocked) is *m<sup>e</sup>-ša-ḥēq* (from *ša-ḥaq*, "to laugh"). It is related to his son's name, Isaac (*yiṣ-ḥāq*). Sarah laughed because of her son, but Ishmael made fun of Isaac.

**(21:10) Sarah said to cast out Hagar and Ishmael, because Ishmael will not share Isaac's inheritance**

**(21:11) Abraham disagreed with Sarah, because of [love for] his son [Ishmael]**

**(21:12–13) God said Sarah is right on this issue, because his seed will be called thru Isaac, but [is wrong on another]: God will make a nation of Ishmael, because he is also Abraham’s seed**

**(21:14) Abraham gave provisions to Hagar and Ishmael, sent them away, and they wandered**

**(21:15–16) Water ran out; Ishmael stayed in the shade; Hagar refused to watch him die; she cried out**

**(21:17) The Angel of the LORD answered Hagar and said that He heard the voice of Ishmael where he is**  
Compare Gen 16:7, 9, 10, and 11 with Gen 16:13. The Angel of the LORD is Jesus Christ Himself,  
Note the meaning of Ishmael’s name (“God Hears”) in regard to what God says

**(21: 18) The LORD told Hagar to rejoin Ishmael & to hold him, because he will become a great nation**

**(21:19) God let her see that they were right next to a great well, so she gave Ishmael a drink**  
The meaning of Beersheba (*Beer* = well; *sheba* = oath)

**(21:20–21) God was with Ishmael who became a hunter in Paran; Hagar found him an Egyptian wife**

**(26:1) In a famine, Isaac went to Abimelech, King of Gerar**

**(26:2–3a) The LORD told Isaac not to go to Egypt, but to go where the LORD would tell him (in Israel)**

**(26:3b–4) God gave Isaac promises even beyond those He made to Abraham**

**(26:5) God will keep His extended land and seed promises because Abraham obeyed [in Gen 22]**