



“Hopeless Despair – God’s Rescue”

Genesis 21:8-21

The historically epic Arab and Israeli conflict begins with a *“mocking.”* Genesis 21:9-10

- God chose to fulfill His redemptive promise through the Jewish boy not the Arab one.
- Sarah, the Mamma Bear, moves in quickly to protect her son, Isaac, and his inheritance.

Abraham was deeply distressed by the thought of parting ways with Ishmael. Genesis 21:11-13

- If we release our grip & embrace God’s perspective, we can relax in His sovereign control.
- Following Jesus can sometimes mean tough separations. (Friends, family, jobs, hobbies...)

Hagar and Ishmael are sent away with meager supplies and no particular destination. Gen. 21:14-18

- Out of resources and options, mother and son can only cry in despair and wait to die.
- The only hope: *“God heard”* and Jesus stepped in to care for the abandoned ones.

The solution: *“Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water;”* Genesis 21:19

- Often hopeless despair will blind us from seeing God’s encompassing divine provision.
- Jesus offers Himself to all who are thirsty and in need of a drink. John 7:37,38

Further Study and Pondering:

1. Why do you believe Arab/Israeli animosity has remained at such a high level for so long?
2. Has God ever led you to make a tough separation from someone/something significant? Explain. Though it may mean leaving something good behind, God has your best in mind.
3. Do you ever feel abandoned & out of options like Hagar? Further study on God’s steadfast provision/presence: (Genesis 28:13-16; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5-8; 1 Samuel 12:20-22; Psalm 68:4-6; Isaiah 41:17-20; Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 8:28-39; Hebrews 13:5,6)
4. Prayer: When hopeless despair settles in on us, we can become blind to God’s provision and presence. Be still before God and ask Him to open your eyes to His many blessings.
5. Action step: Be the hands and feet of Jesus by taking the truth God has taught you this week and living it out in the life of someone who is feeling abandoned and out of options.

“Celebrate the Presence and Provision of Jesus!”