

***Now Concerning Spiritual Things***  
an historical account of one man's walk with God

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**ISHMAEL AND ISAAC**

When Abram was 75 years old and had no children, God told him that he would (1) become the father of a great nation, (2) that his name would be great, (3) that blessings and curses would befall those who blessed and cursed him and (4) that in him all families of the earth would be blessed.<sup>1</sup> Ten years later Abram and his wife Sarai who were still childless, cognizant of God's promise to Abram, made the decision to produce an heir for Abram through Hagar, Sarai's Egyptian maidservant. Hagar then bore Ishmael when Abram was 86 years old. This "arrangement" was done in good conscience by Sarai and Abram in what they thought was a proper way to bring about an heir to fulfill God's promise to Abram.<sup>2</sup>

Although this method of producing an heir seems at least unusual or perhaps immoral in certain parts of the world today, it was a very common and acceptable practice when a wife was unable to bear children during the time of Abram.<sup>3</sup> This practice was also prevalent many years later during the life of Jacob, for example. Twelve gates<sup>4</sup> to the enlarged city of Jerusalem<sup>5</sup> during the Millennium will be named for twelve sons of Jacob, four of whom were born to two of Jacob's concubines.<sup>6</sup>

At the birth of Ishmael, when Abram was 86 years old, he (Abram) thought he had settled his problem of heirship and was therefore in obedience to all of God's promises to him. Everything rocked along in good shape until thirteen years later when the Lord again appeared to Abram when he was ninety-nine years old. God then (1) renewed His covenant with Abram, (2) changed his name to Abraham, (3) changed Sarai's name to Sarah and (4) instituted the rite of circumcision as a renewed *sign* of the

covenant between Him and Abraham.

This time, however, God spoke to Abraham and said that (1) He would bless both Sarah and Abraham, (2) Sarah would give birth to Abraham's son, (3) she (Sarah) would be a mother of nations and (4) kings of peoples would be from her. This time the covenant involved (1) name changes, (2) was sealed by the blood of circumcision and (3) was *spoken*<sup>7</sup> by God to Abraham *and by Abraham to Sarah*.

When God first said this to Abraham, he pled with God and said, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You"<sup>8</sup> to become his (Abraham's) heir to God's promise, but God said, "No." However God did promise (1) that He would bless Ishmael, (2) make him fruitful, (3) multiply him exceedingly, (4) make him a great nation, (5) that he would beget twelve princes but that His (God's) covenant would be established with Isaac.

Although both Abraham and Sarah laughed at the idea of Sarah giving birth at such an advanced age, *the spoken word of God to both of them* later produced faith to allow Sarah to give birth to Isaac when she was ninety and Abraham was one hundred years old.

**Rhema words on the Ishmael/Isaac principle.**

"Physical circumcision is separation from the world unto Me and is fleshly. Spiritual circumcision is of the heart, separation from the world and separated unto Me by faith. The blessing of the Spirit is greater than the blessing of the flesh for one is of faith, the other of the law. One is of faith by promise, the other by law of the flesh.

"Ishmael was separated from the world by flesh. Isaac was separated from the world unto Me by the flesh and separated from the world by the Spirit by faith. Ishmael had only one blessing. Isaac had two, one of and from the flesh, the other of the Spirit by faith. Ishmael's blessing was of the flesh, physical and limited to the physical. Isaac's blessing was of (from) the flesh (law), limited and of the Spirit by faith, unlimited. The reason Ishmael's blessing was fleshly and limited was because it was the best that man could do. The reason Isaac's blessing was and is both limited and unlimited is because it was both fleshly (circumcision of the flesh) and of the world and Spiritual circumcision of the heart by faith.

"The reason Ishmael's blessing was limited was

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<sup>1</sup>See Genesis 12:1-4.

<sup>2</sup>See Genesis Chapter 16 for the complete story of the birth of Ishmael.

<sup>3</sup>Ishmael was born in 1881 B.C., when Abraham's age was 86, according to *A Chronology of Biblical Christianity*, by **Dr. R. C. Wetzell**.

<sup>4</sup>See Ezekiel 48:30-34 for the names of the twelve gates.

<sup>5</sup>The expanded city of Jerusalem during the Millennium will be twelve miles square, see Ezekiel 48:15-19, 30, 35. The new name for millennial Jerusalem will be The LORD is there or YAHWEH SHAAMAAH, see Ezekiel 38:5.

<sup>6</sup>Dan and Naphtali were both born to Bilhah, Rachel's maid (See Genesis 30:6, 8). Gad and Asher were both born to Zilpah, Leah's maid (See Genesis 30:11, 13). In these four instances, these two maids of Rachel and Leah were Jacob's concubines.

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<sup>7</sup>Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).

<sup>8</sup>Genesis 17:18.

because it was the best man could do. The reason Isaac's blessing is unlimited is because the best man could do is not equal to the smallest thing God could do. Ishmael's blessing was and is limited by natural law. Isaac's blessing was and is unlimited by the Spirit through faith.

"As the flesh and law are limited, the Spirit by faith is unlimited. The fleshly blessing of Ishmael is the best that God could do since it was and is limited by both man and God (by natural law). The reason the blessing of Isaac is unlimited is because God through faith by the power of the Spirit is without limit.

"And so it is today. Physical circumcision is separation from the world by law – the flesh – for God's blessing in the world by and through natural and/or physical laws. Spiritual circumcision is of the heart and is separation of and from the world to God Who is without limit. So, in essence, God loves Ishmael just as much as He loves Isaac since he (Ishmael) was the best Abram, Sarai and Hagar could to, in and of themselves. But the best that man could do is less than the least God could do.

"Circumcision carries blessings. The physical portends the Spiritual. Circumcision of the flesh portends circumcision of the heart by faith. One is limited and points to the Spiritual. Circumcision of a male child on the 8<sup>th</sup> day is a dedication – a new beginning – a separation, a new start on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, the first day following the 7<sup>th</sup> day on which God rested. God's rest (finish) day, the 7<sup>th</sup> portended man's beginning day the 8<sup>th</sup>. The end of God's day of rest portends man's day of beginning. God did His part in seven days. Now the rest (of man) is left up to man to respond to God's best in seven. Hence God has done and is doing His part in Ishmael limited by natural laws. He has done and is doing His part in Isaac unlimited in the Spirit by faith since God is without limit.

"The flesh and the Spirit war against each other. They did from the beginning and they do so today. Disagreements among men are of the limited flesh. Agreement between man and God is of the Spirit by faith and is unlimited since God is unlimited. God desires Ishmael to have spiritual circumcision of the heart by faith and loves Ishmael as He loves Isaac, but He (God) is limited by the flesh and unlimited in the Spirit. He can bless the flesh, (the natural) but cannot give Spiritual blessing to the flesh because one is of man, the other of God.

"Physical circumcision should be a ceremonial act of parents dedicating a male child to God, portending the time when the child by faith receives circumcision of the heart through the Spirit, 'for with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made

unto salvation.'<sup>9</sup> Ishmael is the seed of Abraham by and through the flesh and is therefore limited by the flesh.

"A physically circumcised male child carries Ishmael's blessing, portending the time of the second Spiritual circumcision of the heart separating him unto God. Since God makes the sun to shine and the rain to rain on the just and the unjust, so He is limited in what He can do for the descendants of Ishmael. That is why the power and/or the ability to get wealth is accessible to the just and the unjust in the physical and is limited by physical laws applicable to all.

"Now is the time for Isaac to receive circumcision of the heart since the hardening upon Israel has been lifted.<sup>10</sup> Since the elder brother (Ishmael) will serve the younger brother (Isaac), the hardening had to be first removed from Israel (Isaac) so He could receive circumcision of the heart (to receive Jesus as Yeshua), portending the granting of that same blessing to Ishmael. Isaac had to receive the blessing first so the same blessing could then be granted to Ishmael. "Now is the time for Isaac to receive circumcision of the heart. Now is the time for Ishmael to receive circumcision of the heart. One who is circumcised in the flesh to keep the law cannot keep that which has been nullified by the Cross for the law of sin and death was nailed to the Cross and no longer exists. So in effect Ishmael, circumcised in the flesh today is as a Jew circumcised in the flesh to keep the law. Both carry Abraham's (God's) blessing, portending the time when both (now) may come to faith in Jesus as Yeshua, the Messiah. They both now have equal access to God's grace by faith since the hardening (veil) has been lifted from Isaac (Israel) and thence from Ishmael (Arabs) for equal access into the holy of Holies. But the elder (Ishmael) shall serve the younger (Isaac) even as Esau (the elder) shall serve the younger (Jacob) since both are governed by God's law of the first born (of the Spirit) carrying the blessing.

"The first born of the flesh, Ishmael, shall serve the first born of the Spirit, Isaac. God's grace is extended to all – both the Jew and Gentile. Ishmael, not a Gentile, now has equal access to God's grace through faith as do the Gentiles. Prior to the Millennium, Ishmael (Arabs) and Isaac (Jews) have equal access to God's blessings, portending the time of the Millennium when the firstborn by faith through the Spirit (Jews) shall have the preeminence by God's law of the first born, Jesus Himself

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<sup>9</sup>Romans 10:9, 10.

<sup>10</sup>See my *letter* dated October 8, 2004 wherein God's prophecy to me revealed that (1) the harvest of the Gentiles is now complete in the proper number as the fulfillment of another prophecy prior to the rapture of the Church (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) and (2) the blindness in part that has happened to Israel for more than 1900 years has been removed!

(a Jew) being the first born through resurrection, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:20) and God's first born (Psalm 89:27).

"Ishmael is to Esau as Isaac is to Jacob.

"Ishmael is to Isaac as Esau is to Jacob.

"The elder (in the flesh) shall serve the younger (in the Spirit). The firstborn of the flesh serves the firstborn of the Spirit, even though the firstborn of the flesh is the elder brother and under law carries the birthright superceded by the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ. The elder brother in the parable of the Prodigal son was under law – the flesh – and was jealous of the younger brother received by grace through faith by the father.

"The best man can do in the flesh is never equal to the least God can do in the Spirit.

"The limited vs. the unlimited.

"The flesh vs. the Spirit.

"Man vs. God."

Words of Jesus on the Ishmael/Isaac principle.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek Ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."<sup>11</sup>

The word *mammon* refers to wealth, income or assets of value to one personally, that have been earned or received legally and honestly due to one's own ability, hard work, ingenuity or as a gift. The amount may be large (\$billions) or small such as a minimum wage to cover bare essentials.

Additional rhema words on the Ishmael/Isaac principle.

"When you seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and sacrifice your own selfish desires to serve Him, your wealth will become spiritual and *you will ask boldly* for spiritual gifts (blessings) that will glorify Him. As this occurs, your life, your blessings (wealth) will come from Him. Then as He directs the use thereof, He is glorified. That's because He provided the wealth generously and directs the use thereof. That way, everything is His from the beginning so that as He directs the use thereof, regardless of the use, He is glorified.

"God cannot bless your Ishmael wealth (mammon) beyond *allowing you* to properly manage and use it. Wealth produces wealth in the natural and in the supernatural. In the natural it is limited to addition. In the supernatural it is unlimited as to origin and unlimited as to increase so long as God is in charge of its use and/or disposition.

"In some cases God may require a reduction of an Ishmael fleshly, natural blessing (mammon) to make one dependent on Him in order to place that individual under the Isaac/faith/Spirit unlimited blessing so God can get the glory. When God gets the glory, He is free to bless more. He therefore looks for ways to bless so He will get the glory which leaves the door open to even greater blessings.

"The key is (1) who provided the blessing (the mammon), (2) who directs its use and (3) who gets the glory. If all three "who's" are the Lord, the flow of blessings is unlimited.

"On the other hand if of one's own volition and fleshly ability he (1) accumulates wealth (mammon), (2) directs its use (to good purposes) and gets the glory, that source of wealth accumulation is limited because it is Ishmael from start to finish.

"If one is (1) totally dependent on the Lord as his Source, (2) and the Lord then provides the wealth (mammon) and (3) He directs its use, He will get the glory.

"Ishmael/Isaac blessings are accurate depiction of born again, Spirit filled, dedicated servants of God living in Canaan. The Ishmael servant has not discovered the way to access God's Isaac/Spirit/faith/Canaan abundance, so he is in need spiritually, physically and financially.

"The bottom line is who gets the glory. Regardless of how much Ishmael wealth one may accumulate – millions – billions – the use thereof does not glorify God. On the other hand the accumulation of Isaac/Spirit/faith/Canaan wealth provided by God, directed by Him as to use, even in small amounts, will give glory to God in a way totally impossible for one to be blessed by Ishmael blessings/gifts, though the amount may exceed billions.

"This is the reverse of the way (thinking) of the world. 'Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.'<sup>12</sup> But if the Lord builds the house, fills it with treasures, directs their use, those who labor will receive untold treasures in heaven.

"Whether or not your treasures are on earth where moth and rust consumes or in heaven for endless blessings *depend on their origin and use.* The way to lay up treasures in heaven is to 'Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all *these things* will be added to you.'

<sup>11</sup>Matthew 6:19-22, 24, 31-33, italicized underlining added.

<sup>12</sup>Psalm 127:1 (a).

The smallest Isaac/Spirit/faith/Canaan gift far exceeds the greatest Ishmael/fleshly gift. A one dollar Isaac/Spirit/faith/Canaan gift far exceeds a billion dollar Ishmael gift in God's sight. In man's sight, no. In God's sight, yes. That's why we at all cost should seek God's Spiritual blessings (*for ourselves*) *first for that is the door through which we obtain Canaan blessings in the spiritual, physical and financial.* It is always the Spirit first, the physical second since the Spirit created the physical. The physical can do nothing for the Spirit. The Spiritual controls the physical since the physical is the Spirit's creation.

"Our God is a jealous God. There will be no other gods before Him, whether mammon or any other lust of the flesh, lust of the eye or pride of life. In the kingdom the smaller things are greater than the great things.

"But if the Lord builds the house, furnishes its rooms and directs the use thereof, those who labor therein will have treasures in heaven but not likely accolades of the world.

"But if *man* builds the house, furnishes its rooms and directs the use thereof, he may receive the accolades of the world, and unfortunately the Church, but in the end hear the words, 'Depart from Me you who work iniquity into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels, I never knew you.'<sup>13</sup> Our God is a jealous God. He MUST get the glory because when He gets the glory, *that in and of itself* is an offensive spiritual warfare tactic against any intrusion by the enemy. That's why our God is a jealous God. It's for our protection against ANY intrusion into our life by the enemy who came to steal, kill and destroy everyone he can lure within his net.

"Rhema words provide (1) knowledge which leads to (2) understanding that (3) renews our hope and (4) strengthens our faith.

"A one-dollar Isaac gift far exceeds a billion dollar Ishmael gift. The billion dollar Ishmael gift produces treasures on the earth that moth and rust consume. A one-dollar Isaac gift produces treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust consumes.

"The origin of the gift determines who gets the glory. If it originates in the flesh (or is of self) God can't get the glory. If it originates with God and is dispensed by God, He gets the Glory. God's gifts glorify Him."

"When I empower, it is done My way. Then the glory is Mine. There are many devoted servants of Mine

that depend on their qualifications – meaning they are secretly proud of their Ishmael entitlements that I cannot use. The only entitlements I can use are those of My empowerment. The rest are of filthy rags and of no use. As a matter of fact, they many times are of negative value, that is, they detract from what I want to do in a life because they are of Ishmael.

"The only time the Ishmael entitlements are not of negative value is when they become as filthy rags in the mind of the possessors. They then are of no negative consequence and can become of value to Me, for knowledge that leads to understanding and better utilization of My entitlements, of My empowerment."

"The gift always glorifies the giver. Only as everything that you do is for His glory, is your labor not in vain. Only as you are totally His and He then directs everything you do, is that which is produced totally His. Gifts given therefore from His bounty at His direction glorify Him because *you have only been His steward.*

"Only as we see ourselves *as stewards* of His and act at His direction will we produce supernaturally. If we are our own steward, act at our own direction and give generously, we glorify the giver, not the Lord.

"Do you now see that everything must be originated by Me? If it is of Ishmael, either you or the enemy gets the honor and glory and there it dies. When I get the honor and glory, it lives forever. That is why, My son, I must get the honor. My honor means life. Your honor or that of the enemy in either case means death. When you choose Me, you choose life. When you choose self you choose death. For Me to be honored means that I must provide everything. You are beginning to understand that, but it will become clearer to you.

"When you choose life, you choose Me! That's it, My son. I am being and I become every right choice – which is life – My life – chosen and bestowed on those who choose life. *To choose life means to choose Me.* Do you not now see how all encompassing was, and is *your prayer of wanting to learn more of Me than any man who ever lived on the earth! My son, that is the most powerful prayer you can pray because of My Limitlessness. It is awesome as you will see.*

"Do not be reluctant to share these things with others. Only the hungry will hear and respond. The rest will not hear My voice and will go their own way to a very limited unsuccessful life."

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<sup>13</sup>Note that these words of condemnation are for *man* who builds treasures on earth where moth and rust consume as when (1) *man* builds the house, (2) furnishes its rooms and (3) directs the use thereof. That means it is all man/man/man instead of Jesus/Jesus/Jesus and the result is death/death/death.