

Nativity

Intro:

The Christmas story doesn't begin in the NT

Problem:

Isaiah 7:14 we can see Christmas in Isaiah - but it doesn't begin in Isaiah

it begins in Genesis - Genesis 20-21

Main idea:

When you backslide...again

He still blesses

When you complicate things...again

He still has compassion

when you fail...again

He still is faithful

Implication:

Rom 5:20-21 (Isaac's birth proved that you cannot out-sin His grace)

Application: Gen 21:33 Everlasting

Isaiah 9:6-7 - this is the everlasting message of Christmas

everlasting blessing

everlasting compassion

everlasting faithfulness

IN Christ

you cannot sin away Christmas

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Everlasting-Father.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/where-sin-increased-grace-overflowed>

Nativity

Text

When you backslide...again

Gen. 20:1 ¶ From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar.
Gen. 20:2 And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.
Gen. 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."
Gen. 20:4 Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people?
Gen. 20:5 Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this."
Gen. 20:6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore I did not let you touch her.
Gen. 20:7 Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."
Gen. 20:8 ¶ So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid.
Gen. 20:9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done."
Gen. 20:10 And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you see, that you did this thing?"
Gen. 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.'
Gen. 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.
Gen. 20:13 And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, "He is my brother."'
Gen. 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.
Gen. 20:15 And Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you."
Gen. 20:16 To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated."
Gen. 20:17 Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children.
Gen. 20:18 For the LORD had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

*-Gen 12:10-20 (Abraham backslid...again)
-Rom 7:15-8:1 (can you relate - Paul could)*

He still blesses

Gen. 21:1 ¶ The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised.
Gen. 21:2 And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him.
Gen. 21:3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.
Gen. 21:4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.
Gen. 21:5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.
Gen. 21:6 And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me."
Gen. 21:7 And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

*Gen 17:15-17 (But what God made a promise)
Gen 18:9-15 (you cannot sin away His blessing)
Eph 1:3-19 (His blessing is everlasting)*

When you complicate things...again

Gen. 21:8 ¶ And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.
Gen. 21:9 But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, **laughing** (piel mocking).
Gen. 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."
Gen. 21:11 And the thing was **very displeasing** to Abraham on account of his son.

*laughing - gen 19:14 (mocking); Gal 4:29-30 (persecuted)
not be heir - Gen 25:5-6 (legally acceptable but painful)
very displeasing -Gen 17:18-19 (Abraham displeased...again)
Gen 16:1-6 (complicated things again)
successfully - spurgeon)*

He still has compassion

Gen. 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**.
Gen. 21:13 And **I will** make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring."
Gen. 21:14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.
Gen. 21:15 ¶ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes.
Gen. 21:16 Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.
Gen. 21:17 And **God heard** the voice of the boy (Ishmael), and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for **God has heard** the voice of the boy where he is.
Gen. 21:18 Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation."
Gen. 21:19 **Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water.** And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.
Gen. 21:20 And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow.
Gen. 21:21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

*and I will -Gen 17:20-21 (God promised compassion)
God heard -Gen 16:7-16 (you cannot sin it away)
opened her eyes -Rom 8:28-39 (His compassion is everlasting)*

When you fail...again

Gen. 21:22 ¶ At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, "God is with you in all that you do.
Gen. 21:23 Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will **not deal falsely with me** or with my descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned."
Gen. 21:24 And Abraham said, "I will swear."
*-Gen 20:9 (failed again 12:10-20)
-Rom 3:23 (you will fail again)*

He is still faithful

Gen. 21:25 ¶ When Abraham reproved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized,
Gen. 21:26 Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today."
Gen. 21:27 So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a covenant (20:14).
Gen. 21:28 Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart.
Gen. 21:29 And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?"
Gen. 21:30 He said, "These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness for me that I dug this well."
Gen. 21:31 Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath.
Gen. 21:32 So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines.
Gen. 21:33 Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.
Gen. 21:34 And Abraham sojourned many days in the land of the Philistines.

*Gen 20:14 (But what God says will be so)
2 Tim 2:13 (you cannot sin away His faithfulness)
Deut 33:1, 26-27 (His faithfulness is everlasting)*