Outline

I. Sarah Becomes a Mother
Announcement of Isaac's Birth; Threats to Conception, Birth, and Survival (18:1–21:7)

A. Divine messengers visit Abraham and Sarah, announcing that Sarah will become a mother (18:1–33)
B. Divine messengers visit Sodom and Lot, and Lot's daughters become mothers of nations (19:1–38)
C. Abraham and Sarah "visit" Abimelech (20:1–18)
D. Sarah becomes a mother (21:1–7)

II. First Threat to Isaac
Two Mothers Clash Protecting Their Sons (21:8–21)

A. Sarah seeks to protect Isaac: the expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael (vv. 8–13)
B. The rescue of Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness (vv. 14–21)

III. Second Threat to Isaac
Abraham's "Binding of Isaac," or "The Akedah" (21:22–22:19)

A. Abraham settles in Beersheba (21:22–34)
B. Abraham's "test": the binding of Isaac (22:1–19)

IV. Preparation for the Future
Rebekah's Birth (22:20–24)