

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)