

Genesis 21:8-21

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Main idea: It is for Christ's sake that God saves children from their own sin.

Introduction: More to maturity than a voice change.

1. The immaturity of Ishmael

a. Mocking

i. Laugh with v.s. laugh at

ii. Be careful what example you set for little ones around you

b. Would have to be sent away with his mother

c. Would die first if they died

2. What God does for him

a. Gives him a concerned father and a praying mother

b. Puts him in just the right places

c. Listens to his crying

d. Is with him

e. Prospers him in the wilderness

f. Grows him into a mighty and married man

g. Grows him into a mighty nation—a nation from whom a multitude will be saved!

3. Why God does it

a. v13 “seed” must be read in light of v12 “seed”

b. This takes us back to ch 17—“walk before Me” (v1) and “live before You” (v18)

c. But it is in Isaac that the seed will be called, because it is through Isaac that Christ will come

d. God does it because of who He is (the promise-making, promise-keeping God), and because of who Christ is (the One in whom all of those promises are kept).

Conclusion: Christ Himself is the ground and assurance of all the good that we hope that God will do for us, and especially that God will do in us.