

GENESIS 21:1-7 WORTH THE WAIT

¹ Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. ² Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. ³ Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. ⁴ When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

⁶ Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." ⁷ And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

It finally came to pass. The waiting was over. Some twenty years of faith-testing delay had now come to a joyous end. The promised child was born; a son was given. The rejoicing in the household of Abraham knew no bounds.

What an encouragement this story is to us today. Waiting is not a part of our life-plan. We are a people who expect our phone messages to be return within an hour, will pay extra to get overnight delivery of our orders, and get impatient with our computers because they are so "slow." So, when we are forced to wait, we begin to doubt. Is there something radically wrong with my computer? Is the person I called ignoring me? Is there a God, or if there is, is he listening?

Abraham and Sarah give testimony to the fact that God is listening and God will answer. God keeps his promises, according to his perfect timing. We are right to desire the manifestation of God's promises now, or at least in our lifetime. However, even as we are forced to wait, we can by faith rejoice in their fulfillment, because when God says it, it is as good as done. Just as a material gift given at the precise moment of need brings the greatest joy to the recipient, the perfect promise of God fulfilled at the perfect moment according to God's perfect will, will result in our experience of perfect joy.

Dear Lord, I cast my impatience-bred doubt upon the waters of your eternal faithfulness. May I know the joy of the moment-by-moment submission to you I can only experience through waiting. Empower me to use the waiting to heighten my joy rather than feed my doubt. Grow me to a perfect faith. Amen.