

Remembering Ishmael

1. 2 Timothy 2:15

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who **correctly handles the word of truth**.

Power of the Word of Truth

1290 – Jews expelled from England

1611 – Authorized version (King James version) of Bible published

1648 – Johanna Cartwright, Puritan, petitions Parliament to repeal expulsion of Jews
300 years before Israel established, less than 40 years after the Word back in the hands of the common people (thanks for Jacob Vince of CFI – UK). Cartwright had been studying the Prophets. And says in the petition:

“both they and we find, that the time of hereall draweth nigh; whereby they together with us, shall come to know the Emanuell, the Lord of life, light, and glory; even as we are now known of him, And that this Nation of England, with the Inhabitants of the Netherlands, shall be the first and readiest to transport Izraells Sons & Daughters in their Ships to the Land promised to their fore-Fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, for an everlasting Inheritance.”

2. Exodus 4:22

‘This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son’

You know that here. Can defend it. Now let's add a crucial piece to the puzzle needed to defend the Word of Truth.

3. God is not partial. The issue of Israel is one of priority, not partiality.

- 1 Tim. 5:21 - I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.
- Luke 20:21 - So the spies questioned him: “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.
- Acts 10:34-35 - Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.” (concerning Gospel of Messiah for Gentiles as well as Israel)

4. Genesis 12:1-3 – A passage we know well. (let's go there as we'll be in Genesis rest of our time).

Further down we get Isaac. And we love Isaac because God loves Isaac – Son of Promise, Picture of Messiah, born after long wait, sacrificed, resurrected (in Abraham's mind)

BUT

Abraham had more sons. We must love them, too. We must bless them.
There are several, but we will look at Ishmael as representatives of non-Isaac.

5. Genesis 16 – Hagar & and God's promise

We know the story. Sarah, in a lapse of faith, gives Abraham her servant Hagar as a wife. Hagar gets pregnant and so begins the strife between these two women that will leave Ishmael banished from his home.

- **Read Gen. 16:7-13**

Hagar runs away. Is met by Angel of the LORD who makes assurances only God could make. So a pre-incarnation appearance of the Son of God.

God hears (that is what Ishmael means) and makes a promise to “this wild man”

- **Read Gen. 17:18-20**

Abraham is getting assurances of the son of promise – Isaac – and asks God to bless Ishmael. God says yes.

- **Sarah wants to send Hagar and Ishmael away. Abraham prays to God.**

Read Gen. 21:12-13 for answer.

For Abraham's sake, Ishmael will be a nation. God sanctifies Abraham's lapse of faith.

- **Read Gen. 21:14-21**

God heard the boy crying. Again, a promise of a great nation.

- **Read Gen. 25:12-18**

All those sons (as well as the sons of Abraham through Keturah earlier in chapter) are associated with the Arabian Peninsula.

In verse 5, we see Abraham bequeathed everything to Isaac

And so the sons of Ishmael “lived in hostility toward all the tribes related to them.”

6. Muhammad

born in Mecca (modern Saudi Arabia) in 570. He united the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula with Islam. Muslim tradition states the Muhammad descended from Ishmael

So in the Muslims, we have the descendants of Ishmael, if not physically, spiritually.

- They believe/feel they have been abandoned by the Father (Allah is not a father figure but a master).
- I heard an Indonesia pastor says to consider the Muslim call to prayer as Ishmael crying in the wilderness. God hears.
- They are in hostility with all around them. With the Jews. With the Christians. With each other.
- God longs to reconcile the family. But the descendants of Ishmael must understand God's priority with Israel. It's not partiality. It's all for the sake of our redemption. The whole world is redeemed by a son of Isaac, son of Israel, son of Judah: Jesus the Messiah.

I'll close with a quote that challenged me and that I try to remember when I find myself leaning toward partiality.

If you love Israel with a soulish love, you will hate the Arabs. If you love the Arabs with a soulish love, you will hate Israel.

Let us love Israel and Ishmael with the love of Messiah.