

View

February 25, 2007

This Week's Agenda

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM: Singing, Prayer, Lord's Supper, Sermon: David Posey

5 PM – Singing, Lord's Supper, Sermon

Classes Offered This Week

Today at 5:30

Auditorium: Outlining Your Bible

Room 11-12: Revelation – Seven Churches of Asia

Tuesday at 7 PM

John's Gospel: Tuesday, Karlsson's home, 7 PM

Wednesday

10:00 AM – OT History - 10 AM at the building.

7:30 PM – Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium – Galatians

Room 11-12: The First Century Church

News & Prayer Concerns

"First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..."

Prayer Concerns

To the great joy of all the Agees, little Jackson Agee was born on Wednesday, weighing in at 8 lbs, 8oz. He had some health issues that have caused some concern, so please keep the Agee's and baby Jackson in your prayers.

Ashtyn Marie Cain was born on Thursday, weighing 7 lbs, 7 oz. Barrett emailed that mom, baby, big sister, big brother and dad are doing well.

Sharon Jones is doing pretty well, especially since her family paid a surprise visit. They'll be helping her out for the next week or so, so if you were scheduled to drive or provide a meal, your services will be welcomed later.

Ben Woodside's grandmother passed away this past week; please keep Ben and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Hank and Kathy Wilson can always use our prayers as Kathy continues to struggle with the effects of Parkinson's Disease.

Also, Carl Hanson recovery from heart surgery is frustratingly slow for him and Arlene – keep them in your prayers.

Others to include in your supplications to our Father: Ken Dickey (Steve's older brother), Herman Ward, Frances Kaler and Beverly Henderson (Pamela Ludlow's mother); those who are expecting: Candee Dickey, and Amber Karlsson, and those who would like to have more children, but have been unable. Also, always pray for our men in uniform, including: Steven Sabath (Arletta's son), Brandon Folkert (the Terrys' nephew) and Danny Boyer.

Group Meetings

We will be starting a new round of group meetings soon, with a new topic to discuss. We'll keep you informed.

Vacation Bible School

We have set the date for this year's VBS: June 25-29. Please make your plans accordingly.

Out of Town

There are some out of town, but I was not given any specifics.

Classes

Our Tuesday night class on John will meet this week, at the home of Magnus and Amber at 7 PM. Anyone who would like is welcome to attend.

Our Wednesday morning class on OT History will conclude soon. We'll probably begin another subject soon, so if you feel you would like to attend, give me some ideas of what you would like to study.

Gospel Meetings

Reminder: Mark your calendar for October 8-10, 2007 for a meeting with Ed Harrell. We have also booked Paul Earnhart for a return visit in August of 2009. We are working on scheduling other meetings as well.



**Read your Bible
each day, and
spread the word!**

dp

Abraham and Ishmael and Islam

ABRAHAM IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE FOUNDING FATHER OF THREE MAJOR RELIGIONS: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM. ISLAM CONSIDERS ABRAHAM THE FATHER OF THEIR RELIGION BECAUSE OF ISHMAEL. HERE IS SOME INFORMATION AND COMMENTARY ON WHY THEY BELIEVE ISHMAEL, INSTEAD OF ISAAC, IS THE "SON OF PROMISE."

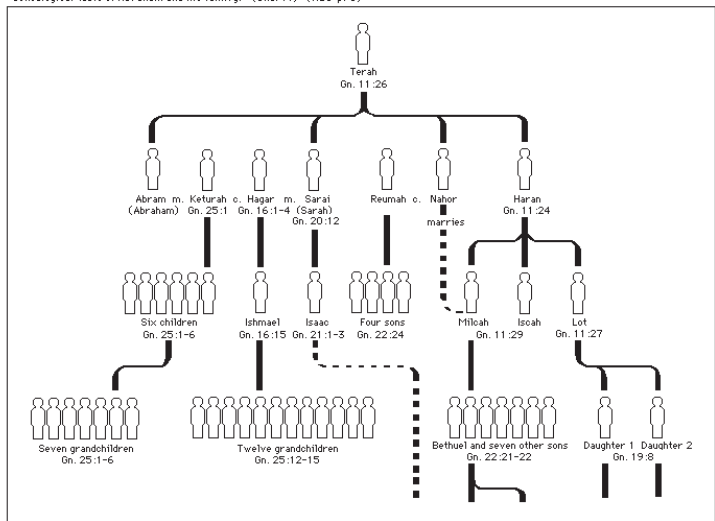
ISHMAEL [DICTIONARY ENTRY] — "God hears." (1.) Abraham's eldest son, by Hagar the concubine (Gen. 16:15; 17:23). He was born at Mamre, when Abraham was eighty-six years of age, eleven years after his arrival in Canaan (16:3; 21:5). At the age of thirteen he was circumcised (17:25). He grew up a true child of the desert, wild and wayward. On the occasion of the weaning of Isaac his rude and wayward spirit broke out in expressions of insult and mockery (21:9, 10); and Sarah, discovering this, said to Abraham, "Expel this slave and her son." Influenced by a divine admonition, Abraham dismissed Hagar and her son with no more than a skin of water and some bread. The narrative describing this act is one of the most beautiful and touching incidents of patriarchal life (Gen. 21:14–16).

Ishmael settled in the land of Paran, a region lying between Canaan and the mountains of Sinai; and "God was with him, and he became a great archer" (Gen. 21:9–21). He became a great desert chief, but of his history little is recorded. He was about ninety years of age when his father Abraham died, in connection with whose burial he once more for a moment reappears. On this occasion the two brothers met after being long separated. "Isaac with his hundreds of household slaves, Ishmael with his troops of wild retainers and half-savage allies, in all the state of a Bedouin prince, gathered before the cave of Machpelah, in the midst of the men of Heth, to pay the last duties to the 'father of the faith-

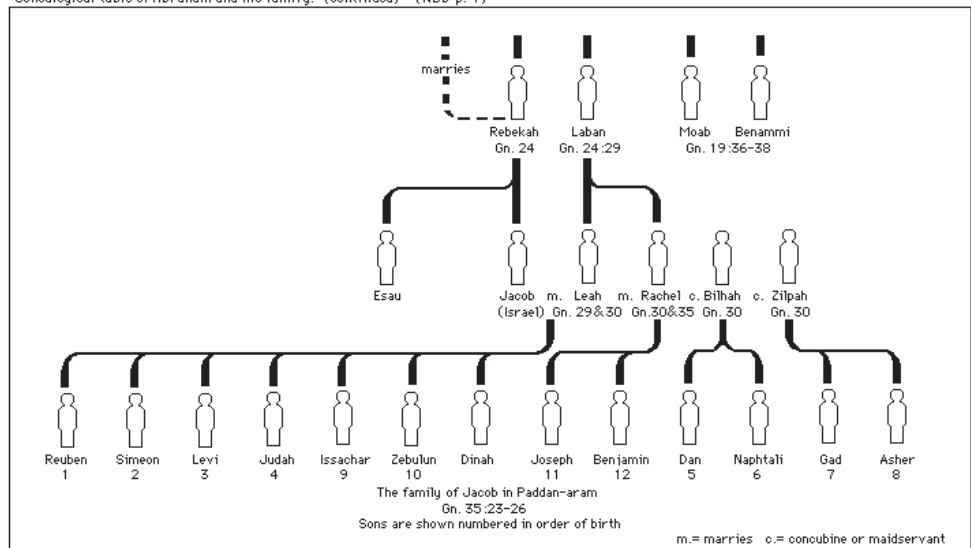
ful,' would make a notable subject for an artist" (Gen. 25:9). Of the after events of his life but little is known. He died at the age of one hundred and thirty-seven years, but where and when are unknown (25:17). He had twelve sons, who became the founders of so many Arab tribes or colonies, the Ishmaelites, who spread over the wide desert spaces of Northern Arabia from the Red Sea to the Euphrates (Gen. 37:25, 27, 28; 39:1), "their hand against every man, and every man's hand against them."

¹Easton, M.G.: Easton's Bible Dictionary. Oak Harbor, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996, c1897

Genealogical table of Abraham and his family. (Chart 1) (NBD p. 6)



Genealogical table of Abraham and his family. (continued) (NBD p. 7)



Islam: Origin and Contradictions

Origin of Islam: According to Secular History

The origin of Islam can be traced back to 7th century Saudi Arabia. Islam is thus the youngest of the great world religions. The prophet Muhammad (circa 570-632 A.D.) introduced Islam in 610 A.D. after experiencing what he claimed to be an angelic visitation. Muhammad dictated the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam, which Muslims believe to be the preexistent, perfect words of Allah.

The origin of Islam is controversial. The "previous scriptures" mentioned above are the Hebrew Torah, the Psalms of David, and the Gospels of Jesus Christ (Sura 4:163; 5:44-48). The Qur'an accepts these books as divinely inspired and even encourages us to test its claims by these "previous scriptures." "If you have any doubt regarding what is revealed to you from your Lord, then ask those who read the previous scripture" (Sura 10:94). But this is where we run into a problem. The problem is that the Qur'an thoroughly contradicts the Torah, the Psalms, and the Gospels. For example, the Qur'an explicitly denies Jesus Christ's crucifixion (Sura 4:157-158) while all four Gospel accounts clearly portray Jesus Christ as crucified and resurrected.

One contradiction in particular has caused a great deal of conflict between Muslims and ethnic Jews and is thought to have been and continues to be the cause of much bloodshed in the Middle East. According to the Hebrew Torah, God made a covenant with a man named Abraham. God promised Abraham a child through whom He would fulfill this covenant ("the child of promise," Genesis 15). Abraham was at that time childless. His wife, Sarah, was barren. This of course made the promise very special to Abraham. But it would require nothing less than a miracle. Sarah, conscious of her condition, decided to help God out. She offered her maidservant Hagar to Abraham with the hope that Hagar might conceive and bare the child of promise. Abraham agreed to take Hagar as his concubine. She conceived and bore Ishmael (Genesis 16). God allowed Ishmael to be born but Ishmael was not the child of promise God had in mind (Genesis 17). God promised a child through Sarah, not Hagar (Genesis 17-18), and in due time God fulfilled His promise. "And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had

spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him-whom Sarah bore to him-Isaac." (Genesis 21:1-3) Isaac was the child of promise. Isaac later begot Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel, and the Messiah, Jesus Christ, eventually came into the world through the nation of Israel, fulfilling the covenant which God had made with Abraham. God also promised to give the land of Canaan (Palestine) to Isaac's descendants, the land which Israel possesses today (Genesis 12:4-7; 13:12-18; 15:1-21; 17:1-22; 21:1-14; 25:19-26; 26:1-6; 35:9-12).

The problem is that the Qur'an teaches that Ishmael was the child of promise (Sura 19:54; compare Sura 37:83-109 with Genesis 22:1-19) and so Muslims believe that God's covenant promises were meant for Ishmael's descendants, not Isaac's. Muhammad descended from Ishmael and so Muslims seek to lay claim to these covenant promises, namely the land of Palestine. Since Israel's U.N.-sanctioned return to Palestine in 1948 there has been unceasing hostility between Israel and her Arab neighbors, with major armed conflicts in 1948-49, 1956, 1967, 1973-74, and 1982. That Israel remains today is a miracle in-and-of itself.



Various sources

Reading for Sermon of March 4th
Genesis 25-35

Calendar for the Folsom Point church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 The Lord's Day Young Peoples' Class	5	6	7 7:30 PM Bible Classes	8	9	10
11 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	12	13 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	14 OT History Class: 10 AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes	15	16	17
18 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	19	20	21 OT History Class: 10AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes	22	23	24
25 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	26	27 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	28 OT History Class: 10AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes			

Mark Your Calendar

June 25-29, Vacation Bible School

October 8-10, 2007 - Meeting with Ed Harrell

The View contains news and articles of interest to the members of the Folsom Point church of Christ. Announcing an activity or event does not necessarily imply that we financially sponsor the event or that the elders specifically endorse every component of that event, since it may not fall under the direct oversight of the elders. The church's work and the elders' oversight is limited by Scripture. We will not announce events that are primarily social in nature. However, we do want to publicize and encourage those activities that provide an opportunity to be built up in the faith and provide an opportunity for you to be a more involved and active member of the body at Folsom Point.

ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT FOLSOM

We are a church of Christ patterned after the New Testament example of local churches. We believe in the authoritative word of God and will provide you with a Bible answer for everything we do in our doctrine and practice. We exalt Jesus Christ and seek to glorify Him, not ourselves (Ephesians 3:21). Therefore, our efforts are directed toward promoting commitment to Christ, not to any man or institution (I Corinthians 2:5).

Our assemblies are simple. We sing without use of an instrument (see Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; we will be happy to show you why we use no instrument, if you desire further study on this issue). We pray (I Timothy 2:1), partake of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (I Corinthians 11:23-29; Acts 20:7) and teach from God's word. All preaching comes from the Bible.

The financial support of this congregation comes entirely from the free-will offerings of its members made on the first day of the week (I Corinthians 16:1-2; II Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-7). We never solicit funds from non-members. Contributions are used for the spiritual growth of this church and for the support of a few men in other areas, such as the Philippines, who are preaching the gospel. We do not use money collected here for social programs or the support of any human institution. We believe the church itself can do all the work God has given it to do. And we aim to do *only* the work God has given it to do – teach the gospel, build up the members, and help needy Christians. All other "good work" is the responsibility of individual Christians (Titus 2:11-14; James 1:27; Galatians 6:9-10).

We offer personal Bible studies at your convenience. We are here to help you with your spiritual needs: please favor us with a request for a Bible study or correspondence course that you can complete at your pace.