

Trust The Catcher

Genesis 21:1-7 | Abel Mendez | August 24, 2025

In this Section we see: Three Important Characters & Three Distinct Movements

- **Verse 1-2** - Lord God & His Grace
- **Verse 2-5** - Abraham & His Response (To Grace)
- **Verse 6-7** - Sarah & Her Response (To Grace)

We See 3 Movements Illustrated by Image : The Trapeze

Illustrates how Abraham & Sarah Relate to God & how we also relate to Him!

Henri Nouwen a Dutch Catholic Priest and writer...

1. Left his professorship to serve at L'Arch Daybreak in Canada
2. Final days in Europe following Trapeze Group before passing in 1996

Trusting the Catcher Requires 3 Things:

Release (Faith), Reach (Hope), Receive (God's Love)

My Prayer according to God's Word is the **COURAGE** to Let Go, **STRENGTH** to Trust, and **COMFORT** in receiving God's loving embrace!

Ultimately we were as God was **WITH** Abraham & Sarah God is **WITH** us!

1. To Release (Faith) : Let Go

Before the Flyer can fly, they have to Trust the Catcher!

What does it mean to Trust God???

"Now **faith** is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." - Hebrews 11:1

How did Abraham & Sarah Trust God???

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, **obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.** Hebrews 11:8

Through this series we have followed Abraham & Sarah and seen the good, the bad and the ugly...

And see in these verse 3 Reasons **WHY** we can trust the Catcher

Reason # 1 We Can Trust: God is Gracious!

21:1 Now the **Lord was gracious** to Sarah as he had said...

- **Gracious (pāqad)** to visit, attend, appoint, give attention, to watch over, to commit, to entrust, to provide.

God did for Abraham & Sarah what they were unable to do by themselves.

- This Ultimately is the Essence of Grace



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- G.R.A.C.E - **God doing for us what we could not do for ourselves** (Salvation, Renewal, Rescue, Strength... His Grace fills the great gap we could never do for ourselves...

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." - 2 Corinthians 12:9

Grace in the Bible is defined as undeserved kindness, benevolence provision.

Jesus offers Grace to a "world made through him," who "did not recognize him!" (John 1:10-11)

And did Abraham & Sarah wait on God's Promise Perfectly? NO!

1. They tried to take matters into their own hands and endured the consequences.
2. **They blew it, AND SO DO WE... But that is what makes Grace so Great!**

How God Does for Sarah what she could not do???

- God Renews her Womb, Empowers Her Life, and He is the same God who offers you and me His RENEWAL, POWER AND GRACE!
- God Does for Sarah what she and Abraham could not do for themselves (Have Child)

Reasons # 2 We can Release : God is Faithful

21:1 and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised.

Against All Odds... A Promise Made a Promise Kept!

1. Sarah was around 90 years old and the promise was made 25 year prior!.

Why Did it take SO Long? And Why are His promises SO long in my own life?

- I don't know! ONLY GOD KNOWS THAT!

What I DO know... God is Committed to Make His Children People of Faith!

"being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

Promises + Time are the means of God to Produce Faith!

- If all things were done in an instant where would faith be???

It was a Mother's Day Coupon Book to Teach me the Weight of a Promise!

- Dishes for a Week, Fold All Laundry for a Week, Good for 5 Car Washes...
- When my mom read them aloud I knew... LIFE WAS OVER!

God is Faithful, HE IS A PROMISE KEEPER!

"If we are faithless, He remains faithful (true to His word and His righteous character), for he cannot deny himself (2 Tim 2:13 AMP)

The commentary on Sarah's Life Reveals Her Faith!

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Hebrews 11:11 – *“And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.*

Reasons # 3 We Can Let Go : God is Sovereign!

2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

God is Sovereign : In Charge of Universe, Nothing is outside his control.

- He knows the past, the present and the future (Goodyear Blimp View)

“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.” Isaiah 46:9–10

Because God is Sovereign He is Not only All Powerful but All Knowing...

- God’s TIMING IS IMPECCABLE! Divine time is perfect time!

Henry Nouwin in His Journal Records an interview with Rodleigh (The Flyer in the Trapeze)

*“As a flyer I must have complete trust in my catcher. The public might think that I am the great star of the trapeze, but the real star is my catcher. He has to be there for me **with split-second precision** and grab me out of the air as I come... The Secret is that the flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything. When I fly to Joe, I **have simply to stretch out my arms and hands and wait for him to catch me...**” (P. 161)*

God is Our Great Catcher!

- He is the Great star, He is the One whose TIMING IS PERFECT, PROMISES ARE SURE, AND FULL OF GRACE... WE CAN TRUST HIM!

So What Keeps US from the RELEASE?

- Hidden Sins that ensnare? Worries that weigh down?
- Unforgiveness which consumes our thoughts?
- Control we THINK we have?!

Can we really let go and trust God? (YES!!!)

- He is GRACIOUS, He is FAITHFUL, He is SOVEREIGN

2. To Reach (Hope)

“Hope is what the flyer experiences as he soars through the air. It is the assurance that the catcher will catch him even before he sees the catcher’s hands or feels his grasp. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (With, Sky Jethani, p,141)

3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised, as God commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.



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Abraham's Obedience is in Response to Grace!

- Abraham was right with God BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

Abraham was a man of Hope BEFORE Isaac was given...

Romans 4:18 Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations... 20 (Abraham) he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, 21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

How Abraham REMAINED HOPEFUL when things were HOPELESS!!!

1. Abraham in Hope BELIEVED and HELD to the Promise
2. He did not WAIVER or TOSS IN THE TOWEL to unbelief.
3. He GAVE GLORY TO GOD and OFFERED PRAISE in the season of waiting!

Abraham was a man of Hope even AFTER Isaac was given...

- Genesis 22:2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.
- Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." 19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Hope Holds to Promise!

- Perhaps you are in a Season of Waiting, A Season of Reaching
- Hebrews 11:1 faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

3. To Receive (God's Loving Embrace)

"A flyer must fly, and a catcher must catch, and the flyer must trust, with outstretched arms, that his catcher will be there for him. When Rodleigh said this, with so much conviction, the words of Jesus flared through my mind: "Father into your hand I commend my Spirit." Dying is trusting in the catcher." (Henri Nowen, Flying, Falling, Catching, p.162)

A Mothers Embrace and the Joy of the Lord

6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."

Before we move on we MUST put this moment in CONTEXT...

Sarah waited 25 years for this promise!

We are All in Different Chapters of Life...

- Some are still holding on, unsure if Catcher even exists!
- Some are rejoicing, you are experiencing the Catcher in a real, tangible way!
- Some are weeping, is the Catcher even there?!!! Ive been flying for a really long time!

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You might be asking : Will I ever laugh again? Will I ever have Joy???

- When tragedy strikes...
- When a loss endured...
- When a disease has the upper hand...
- It was a suicide in my own family that put me into a dark season asking, will I have joy again?
- The Answer Is YES....

Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning. - Psalm 30:5 (NLT)

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.”

Like a Little Child : I Did It! (Abraham & Sarah, a picture of LIFE WITH GOD)

- Obviously it is GOD’S GRACE (We have established this)
- This is God WITH Sarah, and Sarah WITH God in bringing a son into the world.

WITH GOD is how God Worked in their Lives & it is how he works in ours!

Image : Jog/Bike (Gods Embrace, His Hand, His Grace)

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Conclusion : Trust the Catcher (He is With us!)

He sees You! He's Got His Eye on You!
As we RELEASE, REACH and RECEIVE His Love!

There are Promises Abraham Saw Fulfilled in His Lifetime, and **there were other promises he never received in his lifetime...**

Abraham would not see Nations nor Inheritance...
YET God was still WITH his people and fulfilled his promise!

As God was WITH Abraham and Sarah so God is WITH us!

GOD WITH US is a Major Theme of the Bible

- **Genesis 26:24** – “I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your offspring for my servant Abraham’s sake.”
- **Deuteronomy 31:6** – “Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”
- **Isaiah 7:14** – “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (“God with us”)
- **Matthew 28:19-20** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This is the Greatest Promise we Have : GOD WITH US!

- Whether you ever get the house...
- Whether you ever get the healing...
- Whether you ever land the job...
- Whether you ever see in your lifetime your prodigal return....

WHETHER YOU ARE RELEASE, REACHING OR RECEIVING...

GOD IS WITH YOU!

GOD IS GRACIOUS, GOD IS FAITHFUL, GOD IS SOVEREIGN... GOD IS WITH YOU!