

# Ishmael Comes Home: Provoking Israel to Jealousy

## The Promise and the fulfilment

- Abrahamic promise (Genesis Chapter 12, 15, 17 and 21)
- God repeatedly told Abraham, and his descendants, that through his seed, nations would be blessed. (Genesis 22:18, 26:4 and 28:14)
- Fulfilled in Jesus (John Chapter 8:56-59; Galatians 3:8-16)
- Salvation is from the Jews (John 4:22)
- The Gentile sheep (John 10:16 – Revelation 7:9-11)
- Fulfillment – Jesus the Christ (Galatians 3:16)

## Provoking Israel to jealousy so to fulfil the Promise.

- God uses a detour – why? (Romans 10:19-20 – Deuteronomy 32:21)
- To save Israel – (Romans 11:11 and 14) [Paul provokes]
- Paul's strategy to save both Jews and Gentiles (1 Corinthians 9:20-23)
- It fulfills also what Jesus said (Matthew 21:32)
- The fullness of the time of the Gentiles: Paul and James in agreement (Romans 11:25 – Acts 15:13-14)

## The Climax – Ishmael – Islam and Muslims

- There is no greater Gentile to provoke Israel to jealousy than Ishmael, not a more foolish nation to anger Israel than Islam and Muslims
- The Muslims are the least likely people in the eyes of Israel to be worthy of salvation.
- As far as Israel is concerned – Ishmael is still mocking them in war, violence, and terrorism.
- Ishmael and Muslims are the last people Israel expects God would reach out to.
- Ishmael was cast out for Isaac's sake, but God is bringing a significant number of his descendants into the kingdom for Israel's sake.

## Summary of the order of events

- God made a covenant with Abraham and chose Israel to fulfil His promise.
- God sent the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms as well as the Savior to the world through Israel.
- Israel failed and rejected that which was sent.

## So, then – the Detour:

- God introduced a detour. Dispersed Israel the final time (70 AD / 135 AD).

- To cause jealousy among the Jewish People God focused on the Gentiles who accepted the Savior – many of the children of Ishmael included.
- God is in the process to turn Israel and many Gentiles into one new creation (Ephesians 2:14-16).
- God will bring the two together in a New Heaven/New Earth, home of righteousness, and dwell there with us all) Exodus 33:12-17; Revelation 21:3).

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## IMAGINE ISHMAEL SAYING TO ISRAEL

- ❖ I was born of the bondwoman, and the law cast me out, but the grace of Jesus Christ has brought me in.
- ❖ I was deprived of the blessing of Abraham, but now, in Christ Jesus, I am the seed of Abraham and an heir according to the promise (Galatians 3:29).
- ❖ I grew up without a father in the wilderness, but now your God is my Father.
- ❖ I had no inheritance from my Father, but now I have obtained an inheritance you have not because I am a son and heir of God through Christ.
- ❖ I have received the promise of the Holy Spirit as a deposit of my inheritance (Ephesians 1:13-44).
- ❖ I now walk in the new covenant that was promised to you in the prophets (Jeremiah 31:33).
- ❖ I received the righteousness of God without the law through faith (Romans 3:21-28).
- ❖ I have tasted and seen that the Lord is good.
- ❖ To you were committed the oracles of God but unto me the Spirit of God (Romans 2:29).
- ❖ To you was the glory on the mount veiled in the face of Moses, but to me, the exceeding glory is unveiled in the face of Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:7-9).
- ❖ To you was given the ministration of condemnation but unto me the ministration of righteousness (2 Corinthians 3:9).
- ❖ God is in the process of breaking the wall of hostility between us (Ephesians 2:14-16).