

C. The Intercession of Abraham sets forth the principle of Mediation between God and Man.

N.B.—All Mediation and Priesthood are exercised by Christ. (1 Tim. ii. 5.)

First—He Himself is *High Priest*. (Heb. iv. 15.) ∴ trust Him.

Second—His Ministers are *Ministerial Priests*. (1 Cor. iv. 1.) ∴ respect them.

Third—His People are *Lay Priests*. (Rev. i. 6.) ∴ walk worthy of your vocation.

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity. (SEPTEMBER 1.)

ISHMAEL.—*The Wild Man.*

Passage—Genesis xvi. 11, 12, and xxi. 9-21. Text—S. Luke i. 80. Hymns—91, 572.

Picture: Three stages in the life of Ishmael. 1st. An intruding babe. 2nd. A rude boy. 3rd. A wild man.

A. The Child of the Desert.

I. His after history. 1. Reconciled to his brother at his father's grave. (Gen. xxv. 9. Compare xxxv. 29.)
2. Died in peace. (Gen. xxv. 17.)

II. His descendants a continual annoyance to the Israelites (Gen. xxxvii. 28, &c.), like the other four bad sets of cousins—Moabites, Ammonites, Midianites, Amalekites.

III. Other men of the wilderness.

1. Another Ishmael. (Jeremiah xl, xli.)
2. Elijah. (2 Kings i. 8.)
3. S. John Baptist. (S. Matt. iii. 4.)

B. Spiritual contrast between Ishmael and Isaac.

1st. Of whom is Ishmael a type?

- (a) The child of the Jewish Church in bondage under the Law. (Gal. iv. 22.)
- (b) The rebellious outcast, when in misery, cared for by God. (Gen. xxi. 17, 18; Ps. xxxvii. 10.)
- (c) The persecuting son of the flesh. (Gal. iv. 29.)

2nd. Of whom is Isaac a type?

- (a) Christ—despised, envied, persecuted by the Jews His Brethren. (S. John i. 11.)
- (b) Christians—mocked and abused (1) by their brethren in the Jewish Church. (Acts ii. 13; viii. 1.)
(2) by their brethren in the world. (1 S. John iii. 13.)

C. Lessons to be learnt from all the characters even in this evil history.

First—From Abraham—to keep your household in order. (1 Timothy iii. 4.)

Second—From Sarah—to care for a child trusted to you by God. (Exodus ii. 9.)

Third—From Hagar—to submit to hardships in your home. (S. Matt. x. 35.)

Fourth—From Isaac—to expect rudeness and cruelty. (2 Tim. iii. 12.)

Fifth—From Ishmael—to cry to God when in need. (S. John xix. 28.)

Sixth—From the Angel—to be kind to naughty children. (S. Matt. xviii. 14.)

