

Yael Leibowitz

So it seems that the character most associated with comic laughter in Genesis is purposefully introduced at the point in the narrative where one's everyday beliefs are most called into question. It is by no means clear that the ancient audience found it any easier than a modern one to believe that God could cause an eighty-nine year old woman to conceive a child by a ninety-nine year old man. Thus, these authors introduced Isaac and the type of humor associated with his name as a way to suggest to the audience that God often fulfills God's plans by making a mockery of human expectations. Humor is part of the language of hope that points to a higher order than the one in which we normally live.

P Berger, *A Rumor of Angels*

PHILISTINE: A crass, prosaic, often priggish individual guided by material rather than intellectual or artistic values"

(Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary)



