

## **SALT Church**

### **Genesis 16**

#### ***“One Decision”***

December 3, 2025

#### ***“In the Beginning”***

### **Genesis 16:1-16**

**16 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar.**

- Why did Sarai have an Egyptian servant?
  - Genesis 12:10-13
    - *<sup>10</sup> At that time a severe famine struck the land of Canaan, forcing Abram to go down to Egypt, where he lived as a foreigner. <sup>11</sup> As he was approaching the border of Egypt, Abram said to his wife, Sarai, “Look, you are a very beautiful woman. <sup>12</sup> When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife. Let’s kill him; then we can have her!’<sup>13</sup> So please tell them you are my sister. Then they will spare my life and treat me well because of their interest in you.”*
- What did Abram do when he was asked about his wife?
  - He turned her over to the Egyptian Pharaoh.
    - Genesis 12:17-20

- *<sup>17</sup> But the Lord sent terrible plagues upon Pharaoh and his household because of Sarai, Abram's wife. <sup>18</sup> So Pharaoh summoned Abram and accused him sharply. "What have you done to me?" he demanded. "Why didn't you tell me she was your wife?" <sup>19</sup> Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' and allow me to take her as my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and get out of here!" <sup>20</sup> Pharaoh ordered some of his men to escort them, and he sent Abram out of the country, along with his wife and all his possessions.*

**<sup>2</sup> So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children."**

- Is that statement true?
  - Genesis 29:31-32
    - *<sup>31</sup> When the Lord saw that Leah was unloved, he enabled her to have children, but Rachel could not conceive. <sup>32</sup> So Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "The Lord has noticed my misery, and now my husband will love me."*
  - Genesis 30:22-23
    - *<sup>22</sup> Then God remembered Rachel's plight and answered her prayers by enabling her to have*

*children. <sup>23</sup>She became pregnant and gave birth to a son. “God has removed my disgrace,” she said.*

**The \$50 question:**

- **Why God?**

**Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her.”**

- There used to be a show called bait car.
  - Basically, they would take a really nice car into a bad neighborhood and leave it.
  - When the thieves came and took the car the police would lock the thief in the car and come arrest them.
    - When I read this sentence I thought, DON'T DO IT ABRAM, WALK AWAY! QUICKLY!
      - But like Adam taking the fruit from Eve's hand, Abram takes the bait.

**And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal.**

- Men, please tell me that you know this is a very bad idea!
  - This NEVER works out, EVER!

**<sup>3</sup>So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)**

- Think about this for a moment:

- Abram was reprimanded for turning his wife over to an Egyptian.
- Now, both Abram and Sarai think turning Abram over to an Egyptian is a great idea.
  - After all, God promised Abram a son, not Sarai.
    - By the way:
      - In this culture this is not so uncommon.
      - But let's be very careful about allowing culture to dictate what is right and what is wrong.
- ***By now, Sarai is 75 years old, and Abram is 86.***
  - Time is running out, so they think.
    - Abraham will live another 89 years! (wow)
    - Sarah will live another 50 years!

Think about this:

- This one decision created a mess that we are still dealing with today.
  - All the Arabs claim Ishmael as their forefather.
    - Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. (just to name a few)
    - Many if not all are enemies of Israel.
      - All the unrest in the middle east began when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael.
        - Think of all of the wars and bloodshed that have come from this moment.
          - One decision!

#### **4 So Abram had sexual relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant.**

- Nothing was said in scripture as to how Hagar felt about this transaction.
- She was a slave girl.
- She was property.
  - We can't imagine.
    - This is a different time and culture.

#### **But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.**

- I bet!!!!!!
  - **Proverbs 30:21-23**
    - *<sup>21</sup> “Under three things the earth trembles,  
under four it cannot bear up:  
<sup>22</sup> a servant who becomes king,  
a godless fool who gets plenty to eat,  
<sup>23</sup> a contemptible woman who gets married,  
and a servant who displaces her mistress.*

#### **So, Hagar who did not ask for any of this is now pregnant with Abram's child.**

- She remembers the day that she was forced to sleep with an 86-year-old man because her mistress gave her to him.
  - Yea, she angry and prideful.
    - To be treated with contempt is to be despised.

**5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “This is all your fault!”**

- Oh my!
  - Men does this make any sense at all?
    - Ladies does this make any sense to you?
      - Yes, he is at fault but it is not all his fault.

**I put my servant into your arms, but now that she’s pregnant she treats me with contempt. The Lord will show who’s wrong—you or me!”**

- The crazy thing is that I believe she is correct.
  - In other words, Abram was the one that the Lord had been talking to.
    - Abram was the one God had made a covenant with, not Sarai.
      - They both should have known better but at the end of the day who is God going to be talking to when it relates to the family.

So, Sarai’s mad that Hagar is pregnant and treating her with contempt.

- Now is a great time for Abram to step up and lead but he doesn’t.

**6 Abram replied, “Look, she is your servant, so deal with her as you see fit.” Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she finally ran away.**

- “Hell has no fury like a woman scorned.”
  - Imagine going from a trusted servant to the most hated person in the house.

- This is Hagar's life.
  - So, she runs away and most of us would have done the same.
    - Then God steps in and changes everything.

**7The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur.**

- The road to Shur is the road back to Egypt, Hagar was headed home.
  - This angel is no ordinary angel, listen to what He says.

**8The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?”**

- He knows who she is before she talks to her.

**“I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai,” she replied.**

**9The angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.”**

- He doesn't ask why, he simply changes her mind.
  - How?
    - Listen to what He tells her and see if you can figure out who He is:

**10Then he added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.”**

- Only God could say that and only Jesus is God in the flesh.

**<sup>11</sup> And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress.**

- Jesus tells her that her that she is pregnant and that she will have a son.
- Jesus names her son Ishmael which means (God hear’s)
  - This means every time that she calls her sons name she will be reminded that God hears her prayers.
    - WHAT A GIFT!

**<sup>12</sup> This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey!**

- Oh BOY!

**He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.”**

- This explains the Arab issue in the middle east.
  - This explains all of the conflict in the Old Testament.

**<sup>13</sup> Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, “You are the God who sees me.”**

- Her son’s name is “God hears”
- She renames God “The God who sees me”
  - Did you know she is the only person in the entire Bible to rename God.
    - It is interesting to me that the Bible doesn’t tell us the name she used.



**She also said, “Have I truly seen the One who sees me?”**

- What moment for Hagar.
  - This is why she headed back to a hostile home where she will stay until her son reaches around 14 years old.

**<sup>14</sup> So that well was named Beer-lahai-roi (which means “well of the Living One who sees me”). It can still be found between Kadesh and Bered.**

**<sup>15</sup> So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael. <sup>16</sup> Abram was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born.**

**What have we learned tonight?**

- **Culture should never supersede Gods word!**
- **One decision can change everything**
- **“No perfect feet walk the path of faith”**