

Genesis Chapter 16: Rebelling in the Valley & Pursuit of the Stray Lamb

Genesis Chapter 15 Unilateral Promise & Progressive Belief

Jesus appeared to Abram in **Word and Vision**; as his **Shield and Reward**

Abram **believed God's promise**; numerous descendants from his own body

Belief was Credited as Righteousness...Righteous before a Holy God

Abram's belief was **perfected through delay**

God made Abram a **"captive audience"** in unilateral covenant; Royal Grant

Israel's boundaries are established and the promise is as good as done

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. [**HYPERLINK** "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?book_id=65&chapter=11&verse=1&version=49&context=verse" Hebrews 11:1]

Genesis Chapter 16

"God helps those who help themselves" Ben Franklin from Poor Richard's Almanac in 1757. The Bible teaches the opposite. **"God helps those who know they can not help themselves"**

1Now Sarai, Abram's wife had borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar. 2So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, **the LORD has prevented** me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And **Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.**

10 years after Gen. Chapter 15 **Abram: 85** Years old, **Sarai is 75**

No Child: Infertility blamed on woman in OT; shame

Code of Hammurapi: Practice acceptable; custom of the time; **"You are my son"** : If said to slave wife's son... it was so

Sarai: "God is not keeping His promise"; Struggle to hold on to the Promise

Jeremiah also struggled as the prophesy of Babylon's victory over Israel had not come to pass...**yet:**

Jeremiah 20:7 (Read) O LORD, **You have deceived me** and I was deceived; You have overcome me and prevailed **I have become a laughingstock** all day long...

Jeremiah 20:11 But the LORD is with me like a dread champion; Therefore my persecutors will stumble and not prevail They will be utterly ashamed, because they have failed, With an everlasting disgrace that will not be forgotten. 12Yet, O LORD of hosts, You who **test the righteous**, Who see the mind and the heart; Let me see Your vengeance on them; For to You I have set forth my cause. 13 Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD!

See also Job for faith struggle

Abram listened to Sarai's bad advice: Jacob would follow suit in **Genesis 30**

Adam also listened to bad advice:

Genesis 3:6b ...she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, **and he ate.**

1 Timothy 2:14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Man: Spiritual Leader; **Responsibility for the last word**

Ephesians 5:1 (Read) ... be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. ... 21 and be **subject to one another** in the fear of Christ... 22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. 24But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her... 32This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to **Christ and the church**.... 33Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to **love his own wife even as himself**, and the wife must **see to it that she respects her husband**.

3After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took **Hagar the Egyptian**, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.

God would wait until humanly impossible to have a child!

Hagar the Egyptian: Acquired by Abram at a time of faithlessness
Keturah

Genesis 25:1 Now Abraham took another wife, whose name was Keturah. 2 She bore to him Zimran and Jokshan and Medan and Midian and Ishbak and Shuah. 3Jokshan became the father of Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim and Letushim and Leummim. 4The sons of Midian were Ephah and Epher and Hanoch and Abida and Eldaah. All these were the sons of Keturah. 5 Now Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac; 6 but to the sons of his concubines, Abraham gave gifts while he was still living, and **sent them away from his son Isaac eastward**, to the **land of the east**. [Also, 1 Chronicles 1:32]

4He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.

Emotional price for what culture accepted [abortion, homosexuality, divorce, shacking up, etc.]; Seemed right at the time

1 Samuel 1:2 He had two wives: the name of one was **Hannah** and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children... 6Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat.

5And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be **upon you**. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight **May the LORD judge**

between you and me."

The Sin is Unbelief: Symptom of the sin; Making/taking Hagar as a concubine

"May the LORD Judge": Both Wrong

Curse prescription: Dangerous...

Genesis 31:53 "The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge between us "So Jacob swore by the fear of his father Isaac.

Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." 25And all the people said, **"His blood shall be on us and on our children!"**

Acts 18:6 But when [the Jews] resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, **"Your blood be on your own heads!** I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

6But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your power; **do to her what is good in your sight.**" So Sarai treated her harshly, and she **fled from her presence.** 7Now **the angel of the LORD** found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.

Abram gives "permission" for Sarai to treat Hagar harshly; I.e. Mistreat

Mistreat: Hebrew "anah" same as Egypt's mistreatment of Israelites

Hagar flees on the road to her homeland

Spring of Water in the Wilderness: Pregnant; No place to go, no future

God found her: In spite of despising Sarai; in spite of being a Gentile

"The" Angel of the LORD: **Pre-Incarnate Jesus Christ**

The **Angel of the LORD**...found her: C.f. Gen.19:1,21; 31:11; Ex. 3:2,4; Jdg. 2:1-5;6:11-12,14;13:3,6,8-11,13,15-17, 20-23; Zec. 3:1-6; 12:8

8He said, "Hagar, **Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?**" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

maid, maid-servant, slavegirl

maid, maid-servant (as belonging to a mistress)

of address, speaker, humility (fig)

James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.[NIV]

Club house rules: Don't act bigger, smaller...

Matthew 15:21 (Read) Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed." 23But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, "Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us." 24But He answered and said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" 26And He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." 27But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." 28Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

False: I am not who I think I am, I am not who you think I am, I am who I think you think I am.

True: I am who GOD says I am; His beloved, His child, the one He died for, the one he pursues...

Angel of the LORD: The Good Shepherd Jesus Christ who peruses the lost:

John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me...

Matthew 18:12 "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying? 13If it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. 14"So it is **not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.**

Hound dog of Heaven/ God's inconceivable interest in the *individual*

2 Questions followed by 2 commands:

"...where have you come from; where are you going?"

Genesis 3:9Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, **"Where are you?"**

1 Kings 19:9 Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, **"What are you doing here, Elijah?"**... 13When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave And behold, a voice came to him and said, **"What are you doing here, Elijah?"**

9Then **the angel of the LORD** said to her, **"Return** to your mistress, and **submit yourself to her authority.**" 10Moreover, **the angel of the LORD** said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants [Hebrew: Seed] so that they will be too many to count."

2 Commands: **Return and Submit**

Hagar's descendants will be blessed similarly to Abram's

Abram will plea for Ishmael **after receiving the promise of Isaac!**

Genesis 17:18 (Read) And Abraham said to God, **"Oh that Ishmael might live before You!"** 19But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you

shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him."As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

11The **angel of the LORD** said to her further, "Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; And you shall call his name **Ishmael**, Because **the LORD has given heed to your affliction**.

Ishmael: El; the divine name I.e. "God hears"

Exodus 2:23 Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. 24So **God heard their groaning; and God remembered** His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Exodus 3:7 The LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and have **given heed to their cry** because of their taskmasters, for I am aware of their sufferings...9"Now, behold, the **cry of the sons of Israel** has come to Me; furthermore, I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them.

"The LORD has given heed to your affliction" I.e. Our Tears

Psalms 56:8 You have **taken account** of my wanderings; **Put my tears in Your bottle Are they not in Your book?**

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?book_id=29&chapter=25&verse=8&version=49&context=verse" Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death for all time, And the **Lord GOD will wipe tears** away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.

12"He will be a wild donkey of a man, **His hand will be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him**; And he will live to the east of all his brothers." [or, "...and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers"]

Ishmael: The Arab Nations; I.e. Islam

Wild Donkey: Wild man; unsettled and ever moving; Always at war with others and himself!

Job 24:5 "Behold, as **wild donkeys** in the wilderness They go forth seeking food **in their activity**, As bread for their children in the desert.

Job 39:5 "Who sent out the **wild donkey** free? And who loosed the bonds of the swift donkey, 6To whom I gave the wilderness for a home And the salt land for his dwelling place? 7"He scorns the tumult of the city, The shoutings of the driver he does not hear. 8"He explores the mountains for his pasture And searches after every green thing.

All nations from Genesis 15:19-21 will cease to exist; Israel and Ishmael endure and live in **close proximity to the descendents of Abram**:

Genesis 21:9 Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, **mocking**. 10Therefore she said to Abraham, "Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac."

Genesis 20:1 Now **Abraham journeyed** from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and **Shur**; then he sojourned in Gerar.

Genesis 25:18 [Ishmael's decedents] settled from Havilah to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria; ***he settled in defiance of all his relatives.*** [Italic added]

Ariel Sharon gave Gaza to Palestinians in 2005

Joseph, Sarai's great-grandson, would be taken to Egypt...by **Ishmaelites**

13Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a **God who sees**"; for she said, "Have I even **remained alive here after seeing Him?**"

"...God Who sees": The Egyptian Hagar is **amazed that God took notice**

Hagar: Gentile Believer?; God Who sees:

Psalms 139:1 (Read) LORD, You have **searched me and known me**. 2You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. 3You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. 4Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. 5You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. 6Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. 11If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," 12Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day Darkness and light are alike to You.

Remained alive after seeing **Him**: I.e. The Angel of the LORD

Exodus 33:20 But He said [to Moses], "You cannot see My face, for **no man can see Me and live!**" ["Face" I.e. God in all His Glory]

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?book_id=7&chapter=13&verse=22&version=49&context=verse**"**
Judges 13:22 So Manoah said to his wife, "**We will surely die, for we have seen God.**" [The Angel of the LORD]

Genesis 32:30 So Jacob named the place Peniel [Face of God], for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved." [After wrestling the Angel of the LORD]

14Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered. 15So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. 16Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

Beer-lahai-roi: "Well of the Living One Who sees me" I.e. Hagar Isaac would live there:

Genesis 25:11 It came about after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac lived by **Beer-lahai-roi**.

Hagar would return to Hebron; she, Abram and Sarai would reunite
Sarai [and Abram] would learn the lesson of crying out to a God who sees, hears and responds from a slave girl!

7 Test of Abram so far:

Idolatry: Abram called from idolatry. Weak and imperfect he moves out

Egypt: Riches and Hagar, Lying and not calling to God

Covetousness: Abram relinquishes control of stuff giving Lot choice of land

Riches: Abram relinquishes control of riches, giving king of Sodom the booty

Patience: Abram and Sarai take matters [a son] into their own hands

2 More tests ahead

Compassion: Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Chapter 18)

Faithfulness: Isaac (Chapter 22)

SUMMARY: God Pursues, Sees, and Hears

We are to Trust God's Word and *wait* for fulfillment

Ishmael means **God Hears**; Hagar's declaration: **God Sees**

God is inconceivably I interested in us as individuals; the God Who Pursues, See, and Hears

After Israel exiled to Babylon, Jeremiah is vindicated (Shown to be true with proof) after wrestling with his faith and praises the One Who is faithful:

Lamentations 3:22 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. 23They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. 24"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." 25The LORD is good to those who wait for Him...