

In The Beginning

The Birth of Ishmael

Sarai's questionable plan ... Gen.16:1-6

Comment on Sarai's thoughts and actions in 16:1-2.

Being barren and now past child bearing age may have been just too much for her.

Comment on her 'justification' for her plan. vs.2

The Lord has done this and therefore He must want an un-orthodox solution...

What was the legality of this situation? vs.2

The prevailing custom: Barren wife could give her maid to husband. Children legally hers.

Why do you think Abram accepts this plan from Sarai? vs.2-3 Comment??

Perhaps thought this was God's plan. God never said 'through Sarai'. Maybe...

But, as soon as Hagar is pregnant, what happens? vs. 4 Comment??

Hagar despised Sarai. Perhaps pride. Perhaps jealousy. A bad plan from the start...

And what is Sarai's silly reaction? vs.5

Somehow this is all Abram's fault! She never owns up to her plan. Invokes the Lord...?

And what is Abram's very weak response to her? vs.6

He refuses to settle it. Puts the matter solely in Sarai's hands. She abuses Hagar, who flees.

This is a low point for both Sarai and Abram. Comment on their faith at this time.

Hagar meets the Angel of the Lord ... Gen.16:7-15

Who is this 'Angel of the Lord'? vs.7 16:13; Is this always true? IISam.24:15-17; Zech.1:12

In 16:13, clearly the Lord, Himself. Other passages seem to be an angel rather than God.

Comment on how the Lord addresses Hagar. vs.8 cp. vs.3

She is Sarai's maid, not Abram's wife. Note vs.9. Submit to her authority (over you).

And what promise (splash effect) is given to her? vs.10

The Lord will greatly multiply your descendants. But no specific blessing on Ishmael.

Comment on the description the Lord gives on her son, Ishmael (God will hear). vs.11-12

Ishmael will be trouble! Wild donkey of a man, living in constant hostility...

Comment on Hagar's reaction, vs.13. While not speaking of her faith, what do you think??

Keenly aware she's seen God and still lives! And notes 'God sees...'. Certainly faith there...

Why do you think the Lord allowed this whole episode? Gal.4:21-31

Hagar and Ishmael are types of unsaved under the slavery of the Law. Contrast to believer

What are the two covenants of Gal.4:24? IICor.4:12-18; Lu.22:20; Heb.8:8-13

#1, the Law (Mosaic covenant) #2, the New Covenant, believers in Christ. Law vs. Grace.