

## Journey Through HIStory: God's Meeting with Hagar

Text: Genesis 16:1-16

### Introduction:

Sarai, Abram's wife, became concerned since she was not able to bear a child for her husband. Because of this, she came up with a plan to give Abram a child. However, her plan backfired which caused her greater frustration. But God was there to rectify the situation.

### I. Sarai's Scheme. – Gen. 16:1-3

- A. Sarai took the matter of giving Abram an heir into her \_\_\_\_\_ hands.
- B. Her plan involved her Egyptian maid, Hagar.
  - *"Hagar was almost certainly part of what Abram received during his time in Egypt (Genesis 12:16)."* [\*] (David Guzik, *Hagar and the Birth of Ishmael*)
- C. She gave Hagar to Abram to be his secondary wife and \_\_\_\_\_ him a child.
- D. Abram went along with all this without any objection.
  1. It may have been allowed in their time and \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. *"The whole practice of surrogate parentage was somewhat common in the ancient world and may have been acceptable to God on other occasions; but it wasn't for Abram, the friend of God and the man of faith. God had a different path for him."* [\*]
  3. But he also still \_\_\_\_\_ have prevented it.
  4. *"A godly Christian wife has a lot of wisdom for her husband, and many husbands learn the value of listening to the wisdom of their wives. Yet no wife is infallible, and Abram was responsible for his sin of heeding the unwise, unbelief-based advice of his wife."* [\*]

### II. Sarai's Frustration. – Gen. 16:4-6

- A. Her plan was \_\_\_\_\_, and Hagar conceived.
  - *"From Sarai's perspective, a terrible thing happened — Abram succeeded in making Hagar pregnant. This proved beyond all doubt the failure to provide a son to Abram was the fault of Sarai, not her husband."* [\*]
- B. However, Hagar looked down on her because she was able to get pregnant while Sarai did not.
- C. Sarai \_\_\_\_\_ Abram for what happened.
  1. Abram was partly to blame for what happened.
  2. But it was her own idea that led to her misery.
- D. Abram failed to take control of the situation for the \_\_\_\_\_ time and let Sarai do as she pleased once more.
  1. Sarai mistreated Hagar to vent her frustration.
  2. Hagar fled from her mistress because of the maltreatment.

### III. God Meets with Hagar. – Gen. 16:7-14

- A. The Lord met with Hagar in the wilderness as she was fleeing from Sarai.
  1. It is interesting to note that the Lord " \_\_\_\_\_ " her.
  2. It's not as if God had to look for her because He is omnipresent and omniscient.
  3. But it implies that the Lord was being \_\_\_\_\_ in meeting with Hagar.
- B. *"Seemingly, **the Angel of the LORD** was a physical presence who spoke with Hagar as one person speaks to another. We don't have the sense that this was a mere spiritual impression or a voice in the wind. There was a person physically present with Hagar, and that person was **the Angel of***

**the LORD.” [\*]**

1. *“... it shows that Hagar understood that this physically-present Person was **God Himself**. When God Himself is physically present, we understand that it is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.” [\*]*
  2. *“We understand this because of God the Father it says: **No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him** (John 1:18), and no man has ever seen God in the Person of the Father (1 Timothy 6:16). Therefore, if God physically appeared and spoke as one Person to another in the Old Testament, we understand this as an appearance of the eternal Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, before His incarnation in Bethlehem.” [\*]*
- C. God instructed Hagar to \_\_\_\_\_ herself and go back to her mistress.
1. Hagar had been arrogant towards Sarai and had forgotten her place.
  2. God will give them a blessing, but she has to be humble enough to receive it.
- D. God promised to greatly \_\_\_\_\_ Hagar’s descendants (through her son).
- E. The Lord told Hagar to name her son Ishmael (God hears), because He heard her and paid \_\_\_\_\_ to her suffering.
- F. God prophesied about Ishmael and his descendants concerning their lifestyle and relationship with others.
- G. Hagar recognized the Lord as the “God Who \_\_\_\_\_.”
- H. The well was named Beer-lahai-roi to commemorate God’s graciousness in meeting with Hagar.

**IV. Hagar Returns and Gives Birth to Ishmael. – Gen. 16:15-16**

- A. Abram named his son whom Hagar gave birth to, Ishmael, as the Lord had instructed.
- B. Abram was eighty-six years old at that time.

**V. Spiritual Insights and Principles.**

- A. Sarai knew that the Lord had prevented her from bearing children, but instead of entreating Him based on His promise to her husband, Abram, she came up with her own plan.
  - She could have tried to understand \_\_\_\_\_ God did it.
- B. Sarai’s actions were allowed by Abram, the head of the family.
- C. *“Whatever a man or woman attempts to do without God will be a miserable failure — or an even more miserable success.” [\*]*
- D. Hagar wasn’t exactly a victim either.
  1. She became \_\_\_\_\_ and disrespected her mistress.
  2. Her pride may have led her to flee from her mistress and her duties as a maidservant.
- E. *“This is the first appearance of **the Angel of the LORD** in the Bible. He didn’t first appear to Noah or Enoch or Abram. The **Angel of the LORD** first appeared to a single mother-to-be who had a pride problem and was mistreated by the woman who put her into the whole mess.” [\*]*
- F. Ishmael was \_\_\_\_\_ son; therefore, the Lord graciously applied His promise to him.
  1. *“As the promise was fulfilled, Ishmael became the ancestor of the Arab people, just as his later half-brother Isaac would become the ancestor of the Jewish people.” [\*]*
  2. *“Ishmael was given a great promise, not only in the number of his descendants, but also in that he was the first one in the Bible given his name before he was born. **God had a plan for this boy and his descendants**. God doesn’t give a name if He doesn’t have a plan.” [\*]*
- G. The Lord was \_\_\_\_\_ the “God Who Hears” and the “God Who Sees” to Hagar that time

when she met Him.

**Conclusion/Application:**

*“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise.”* (2 Pet. 3:9) No one’s saying that it’s easy to wait. But it is better for us to wait than to be the catalyst of our own misery by trying to help God fulfill His promise to us. He has a perfect plan and trying to rush it using our imperfect ways from our flawed thinking can only lead to \_\_\_\_\_ for us. Thank God nothing is out of His control. He can even make something good out of all the bad things that we do to ourselves.

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- [https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-16.cfm?a=16011](https://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-16.cfm?a=16011)