

## Genesis 16 New American Standard Bible

### Sarai and Hagar

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not borne him a child, but she had an Egyptian slave woman whose name was Hagar. <sup>2</sup>So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing *children*. Please have relations with my slave woman; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

<sup>3</sup> And *so* after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave woman, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. <sup>4</sup>Then he had relations with Hagar, and she conceived; and when *Hagar* became aware that she had conceived, her mistress was insignificant in her sight.

<sup>5</sup> So Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be upon you! I put my slave woman into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was insignificant in her sight. May the Lord judge between you and me." <sup>6</sup> But Abram said to Sarai, "Look, your slave woman is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.

<sup>7</sup> Now the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup>He said, "Hagar, Sarai's slave woman, from where have you come, and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

<sup>9</sup> So the angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." <sup>10</sup>The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count."

<sup>11</sup> The angel of the Lord said to her further, "Behold, you are pregnant, And you will give birth to a son; And you shall name him Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction. <sup>12</sup> But 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 in defiance of all his brothers."

<sup>13</sup> Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees me"; for she said, "Have I even seen *Him* here *and lived* after He saw me?" <sup>14</sup> Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered. <sup>15</sup> So Hagar bore a son to Abram; and Abram named his son, to whom Hagar gave birth, Ishmael. <sup>16</sup> Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

**We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions**

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

**Pauls Observations and insights**

1. Despite the promise made by God no child had been given to Sarah. Why do you think that was?
2. Hagar is an Egyptian maid. Did she come to Sarah as part of the blessing from Pharaoh to Abraham?
3. What does the name Hagar mean?
4. It was Sarah who gave Hagar to Abraham to produce a child. Did Sarah get in God's way or was this part of God's plan?
5. Why did Sarah say it was God who had prevented the blessing of children being born from her to Abraham?
6. To be a barren women in those days, was a shameful thing.
7. What do you think about the concept of a surrogate mother?
8. Sarah considered Hagar as her property, so, any child born to Hagar would belong to Sarah and Abraham.
9. How did Hagar feel about this plan of Sarah's?
10. Abraham obliged his wife in this experience, but was it the right thing to do?
11. Abraham had lived in Canaan for ten years by this time, so the promise God made had tarried awhile!
12. To prevent any misunderstanding within the community it was Sarah who took Hagar to Abraham to be his wife.
13. Why his wife and not his concubine?
14. Intercourse was a man and a women becoming one flesh - 'a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh.'
15. The western concept of marriage is very different to back then.
16. He went to her and she conceived and became pregnant and then despised Sarah. Why?
17. Having done this thing, Sarah blamed Abraham as if it had been his fault and so she cursed him.
18. She contemplates 'I thought I was doing a good thing, but in fact it made my barrenness worse'. She complains to Abraham about Hagar.
19. Abraham does what all strong leaders do, he leaves Sarah to sort out the mess.
20. Sarah was firm and unkind, so Hagar ran away.

21. An angel of the Lord found her and spoke to her.
22. The angel identified Hagar, as to who she was, a servant of Sarah's, and asked Hagar, 'where have you come from, where are
23. you going, have you thought this through properly?'
24. He instructs her to return to Sarah and to submit to Sarah's authority, but he gives Hagar a promise, she will have many descendants. Who was this angel?
25. A Christophany is Jesus incarnate, that is Jesus on earth before He was born as the Son.
26. Was the angel acting on behalf of God? Yes, he is known as the angel of the Lord.
27. He declares 'you are with child'. Surely these are the words any women would long to hear given the right circumstances. Where these the right circumstances for Hagar?
28. The angel gives Hagar the instruction to call the child 'Ishmael'. It means **Ishmael** was the first son of Abraham through the Egyptian Hagar (Genesis 16:3)
29. He is venerated by Muslims as a prophet.
30. He died at the age of 137 (Genesis 25:17).
31. Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions consider Ishmael to be the ancestor of the Ishmaelites (Hagarenes or Arabians)
32. Ishmael thereby founded a great nation as promised by God in the Old Testament,
33. And was buried with his mother Hagar next to the Kaaba in Mecca
34. Imagine having a son known as a wild donkey of men, who will be at odds with everyone and everyone will be at odds with him!
35. Ishmael will make his home to the east of his brothers, so not a part of the community.
36. Hagar spoke to the angel, that is the angel of the Lord, she declares to him, 'you are a God who sees'. She means one who knows what will happen.
37. Hagar is shocked that having been in the presence of an angel she is still alive!
38. The well where the angel meets Hagar is given a name. Hagar bears the son to Abraham when he is 86 years old, he is 99 years old when Isaac is conceived.