

Making It Happen!

Genesis 16:1-16

Introduction

I The Carnal Plan

- A. Sarai had born Abram no children
- B. Sarai had an Egyptian maidservant, Hagar - Gen 12:16
- C. Sarai said to Abram:
 - 1. “The **Lord** has kept me from having children” - Ps 127:3
 - 2. “Go, sleep with my servant” - Jam 1:13-15; 2 Cor 10:5
 - 3. “Perhaps I can **build** a family through her” - Gen 30:1-3
- D. Abram **agreed** to what Sari said - Acts 5:29; Prov 22:3
 - 1. Sari gave Hagar to her husband to be his wife
 - 2. Abram **slept** with Hagar and she conceived

II The Natural Consequences

- A. Hagar began to **despise** her Sarai - 1 Sam 1:4-8; 1 Cor 4:7
- B. Sarai **blamed** Abram:
 - 1. “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering!”
 - 2. “May the **Lord** judge between you and me!” - Prov 14:12
- C. Abram **abdicated** his leadership to Sarai
 - 1. He turned Hagar over to Sarai - Ja 4:16-17; Eph 5:22-24
 - 2. Sarai **mistreated** Hagar - Eph 6:9
 - 3. Hagar **fled** from Sarai

III The Divine Intervention

- A. The angel of the Lord **found** Hagar - Ex 3:2; Judg 6 & 13
- B. The angel of the Lord asked: - Gen 3:9; 4:10; 1 Kings 19:9
 - 1. “Hagar, where have you come from?”
 - 2. “Hagar, where are you **going**?”
- C. The angel of the Lord said:
 - 1. “Go back and **submit** to your mistress” - 1 Pet 2:18-24

IV The Divine Promise

- A. The angel of the Lord prophesied:
 - 1. “I will **increase** your descendents greatly” - Gen 17:20
 - 2. “You will have a son and name him Ishmael”

- a. “For the Lord has **heard** of your misery” - Ps 34:17-18
- 3. “He will be a wild donkey of a man” - Gen 25:16-18
 - a. “His hand will be against everyone”
 - b. “Everyone’s hand will be against him”
 - c. “He will live in **hostility** toward all his brothers”
- B. The response of Hagar:
 - 1. She named the Lord, “Beer Lai Roi”
 - a. “You are the God who **sees** me” - Prov 15:3; 2 Chr 16:9
 - b. “I have now seen the One who sees me” - 2 Cor 3:18
 - 2. She bore Abram a son - Gal 4:21-31
- C. The response of Abram:
 - 1. He named the boy, Ishmael
 - 2. He was **86** years old when Hagar bore Ishmael

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a time when you tried to accomplish something for God in the strength of your own flesh. What was the outcome?
2. What were the long-term consequences of Abram and Sarai’s decisions? What have been the consequences of your own impatience with God’s timing? To your spiritual growth? To your family? To others in your life? To the glory of God?
3. Of the three main characters in this story – Abram, Sarai and Hagar – who do you like the most? The least? Why? Who are you most like when under pressure?
4. How does the Lord comfort and instruct Hagar? What does the Bible teach about submission under these conditions? [Eph 6:5-8; 1 Pt 2:18-24] Is there a situation that you have run from that He wants you to go back and address? Are you willing?
5. Are you feeling impatient for God’s promises to be fulfilled in your life? Take a few moments now to ask His forgiveness for attempting to finish in the flesh what He has begun in the Spirit and yield yourself to God. Respond to and obey whatever the Holy Spirit prompts you to do as a result of this study.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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