

Torah Studies

Genesis: In the Beginning



The Scholars – Konstanty Szewczenko

The Birth of Ishmael Genesis 16

Torah Studies

Delighting in God's Word

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Delighting in God's Word

- Psalm 119:25-28 (NKJV)

25 My soul clings to the dust;

Revive me according to Your word.

26 I have declared my ways, and You answered me;

Teach me Your statutes.

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Delighting in God's Word

- Psalm 119:25-28 (NKJV)

27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts;
So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works.

28 My soul melts from heaviness;
Strengthen me according to Your word.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- In **Genesis 15**, God affirmed His covenant with Abram.
- He promised to make Abram's descendants into a nation.
- He also promised to give them the land in which Abram was residing – the land of Canaan.

The Birth of Ishmael

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Introduction

- Previously in **Genesis**:
- Then God alone ratified the covenant, making it a one-sided promise.
- God would accomplish what He said He would do, and it would not depend upon Abram.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Outline

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Genesis 16

Outline

- I. Sarai and Hagar 16:1-6
- II. The Lord Appears to Hagar 16:7-14
- III. The Birth of Ishmael 16:15-16

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

- Back when Abram and Sarai went to Egypt, we found out the following.
- **Genesis 12:16**

And for her [Sarai's] sake he [Pharaoh] dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

- 16:2-3 Abram was now 85.
- In Sarai's defense, this suggestion was a normal thing to do in that place and time.
- The Code of Hammurabi and other writings from Mesopotamia in Iraq even describe it as law.
- Any children from such a union would be raised as those of the original wife, rather than the servant.

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

- 16:2-3 The real question is “How did God see it?”
- It turns out that God was not yet ready to give Abram that promised son.
- And He intended for Sarai to be the natural mother.

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

- God had given Abram a one-sided promise in the covenant. He didn't need Abram's help to fulfill it.

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6



Sarah ... and Abraham ... found themselves in the position of seeking now through natural means to accomplish the purposes of God. Let me say that is always a mistake ... Many times I have put myself ...

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6



... in the position of God's little helper ... The minute God needs my help, He's in big trouble. The opposite is true. I need His help continually. The Lord is my helper. I need His help. He doesn't need mine.

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

- Application: The activity of obedience vs. the activity of self-imposed striving and conniving.
- God gave Abram a promise when he was already married to Sarai – a one-sided covenant.
- There was no need to do anything but wait upon God.
- But patiently waiting and trusting in God is hard.

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

- 16:4 Hagar gets pregnant and then turns a little bit brassy and defiant toward Sarai.
- 16:5 Sarai blames Abram for Hagar's attitude – though her pregnancy was originally Sarai's idea (v.2).
- 16:6 Sarai treats Hagar badly and Hagar takes off.

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

- It's great that Abram gave priority to Sarai.
- At the same time, he is passively abandoning Hagar while she is pregnant with his child.

I. Sarai and Hagar

16:1-6

- This is an early sign that polygamy is not a great idea.
- Despite the Bible allowing for it, there is not a strong case to show that this is what God really wants.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

- 16:7 Hagar is somewhere on the road back to Egypt.
- The woman is lonely, pregnant and upset – and she's going home.
- And the angel of the LORD finds her near a spring.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

- 16:7 Angel of the LORD First appearance in the Bible.
 1. He speaks as God, and exercises rights and privileges which belong only to God.
 2. It is often inferred that in the O.T. this is an appearance of God Himself in human form.
 3. As Christians, we can look back and see this “messenger” of God as the pre-incarnate Christ.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

- 16:8-10 God promises to bless Hagar with innumerable descendants through her unborn son.
- God gave the Patriarchs this promise.
- Hagar is the only woman to get a similar promise.
- The promise seems connected with her remaining in the household of Abram and Sarai.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

- 16:11 Ishmael means "God hears."
- He is the first child that God names before he is born.
- Others will be:
 - Isaac (Genesis 17:19)
 - John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)
 - Jesus (Luke 1:31)

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

Even though the people closest to her had turned on her and she felt completely alone, God himself came close to Hagar, reassuring her that he had heard her despair ...

– Tony Evans, pastor, author



II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

*... God is near to the brokenhearted,
and he hears their cries (see Ps
34:18). This gives hope to any single
mother who reaches out to God*

– Tony Evans, pastor, author



II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

- 16:12 a wild donkey of a man
- In those days there were wild donkeys in the Negev and the Sinai wilderness.
- Ishmael would live a nomadic life much like them.
- He will also carry the conflict that began in Abram's household on into the future.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

- 16:12 he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.
- There is a double meaning here that Fruchtenbaum describes well.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14



On one hand, he will live side by side with brother Isaac, but on the other hand, the side-by-side living will be with an attitude of hostility. Putting the two meanings together, what it means is ...

– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14



... the descendants of Ishmael will live side by side with the descendants of Isaac; but it will be in hostility and not in peace.

– Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Russian-born, Messianic Jewish theologian.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

- 16:13-14 You are a God of seeing
- One of the lessons Hagar learned here was that God had His eye on her the whole time.
- We often need that encouragement too.

II. The Lord Appears to Hagar

16:7-14

- 16:13-14 Beer-lahai-roi = well of the Living One who sees me
- Later this would be a place where Isaac would dwell (Genesis 24:62, 25:11)

III. The Birth of Ishmael

16:15-16

III. The Birth of Ishmael

16:15-16

- Abram called the name of his son ... Ishmael
- God originally gave his name to Hagar.
- Abram followed through on God's directive about the name of his son.

The Birth of Ishmael

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Conclusion

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Genesis 16

Conclusion

- The activity of obedience vs. the activity of self-imposed striving and conniving.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- The activity of obedience vs. the activity of self-imposed striving and conniving.
- Obedience usually involves activity.
- Sometimes we need a little kick to get us started.
- Still, it is an activity that often gives us more peace, more confidence, and more assurance.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- The activity of obedience vs. the activity of self-imposed striving and conniving.
- On the other hand, there is the kind of activity that causes us to step outside of God's will.
- We might give it a godly label, but it is striving and conniving all the same.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

- Waiting on God

Conclusion

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- Waiting on God
- This is one of the biggest lessons we get out of the life of Abram.
- Ten years in from the promise, God had still not given him a son.
- He would have to wait fifteen years more.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- Waiting on God
- God had given Abram a one-sided covenant and God came through.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- Bible Trivia:
- How many sons did Abraham have in total?

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- Bible Trivia:
- How many sons did Abraham have in total?
- Answer: Eight
- Ishmael by Hagar
- Isaac by Sarah
- Six sons by Keturah, who he married after Sarah died.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

- God sees us and hears us.

Conclusion

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- God sees us and hears us.
- Sometimes we all feel like Hagar.
- We are alone in the desert.
- We feel abandoned, and it seems like no one understands what we've been through.
- Yet that is not the whole truth.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- God sees us and hears us.
- God knew everything there was to know about Hagar, the pregnant slave girl alone in the desert.
- And he heard her prayer.
- He sees you and He hears you, especially in your terrible time of need.

The Birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16

Conclusion

- Psalm 22:1-2

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words
of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

The Birth of Ishmael

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Conclusion

- Psalm 22:24

For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

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Quiet Prayer – Konstanty Szewczenko

Next Week:
Circumcision and Promise
Genesis 17