

## Genesis 16

1,2 I wonder if Hagar was one of the maidservants Pharaoh gave Abram? Having children through a servant was a common practice in those days but the way of faith is not the way of the world.

3,4 Isn't that the way it goes. My parents sponsored a young man from Scotland and helped him get an education to become a minister. After he grew in popularity and was on his own we never heard from him. Hagar feels she is blessed and the special one, so she despises the one who gave her the opportunity.

5 In verse 2 Sarai tells her husband what to do. In verse 5 she says it was her action but then blames him for doing it. But she obviously can't see it because she asks God to judge between them. We are often blind to our own failures and blame others rather than to face it. Is she saying it is Abram's desire to have children that caused the problem?

6 Abram lets Sarai abuse her servant. Scripture is so honest! Hagar cannot take the abuse and runs away.

7 We find in other Scripture that the Angel of the Lord is Jesus. He meets the abused woman. He is close to the hurting. They think they are alone in the world, but they never are.

8 It is a question the Lord asks us too. Where have you come from? (what is it that has shaped you to this point and what are your reactions?) Then He asks where we are going? (What have we decided to do with the past? What will we make of all that we have been through?) We can take it and make a productive step forward, learning lessons, growing in faith and wisdom, OR we can become bitter and act irrationally and die in hatred.

9 Hagar saw no reason for Sarai's abuse. The Lord did though - submit. Hagar got cocky when she had a son and tried to get out of the place God had put her. She despised the one who had elevated her. Go back and submit. We will hear that a few times in life when we try to run from situations.

10,11 Right or wrong, when we are in misery, "God hears". There is no one in this story that is blameless but the Angel of the Lord. Still, we see the wonderful grace of God that intervenes and smoothes relationships. Ishmael! What a comfort!

12 Even being fulfilled this very day. The Arabs cannot get along with each other. They certainly don't get along with the descendants of Isaac. I would think this description fits the Arabs today as well as it did Ishmael.

13 El Roiy - Ishmael - God hears God sees and hears when we call to him in unjust situations. Hagar was not any more righteous than Sarah, but she too was loved by God. But God chose to establish his covenant with the miraculous seed of Abraham not the natural.

14 -16 Another 15 years to the fulfillment of the promise. It must be a total impossibility, so that they will know it is of God and not of man.