

Begin Again!

Setting your Watch by God's Clock!

A Study of the Book of Genesis – Part 23

Genesis 16:1-16 (NKJV)

1. The Promise that was Received!

A. It was a Specific Promise.

Genesis 12:2 (NKJV)

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you
And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

Genesis 15:5 (NKJV)

5 Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)

16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. . .

2 Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

B. It was a Sure Promise.

Genesis 15:17 (NKJV)

17 And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

2. The Patience that was Required!

A. The Fleshly Method

Genesis 16:1-4, 15-16 (NKJV)

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. 3 Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. 4 So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

. . . 15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.
16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

B. The Foolish Mistake

Psalms 27:14 (NKJV)

14 Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the Lord!

Psalms 130:5-6 (NKJV)

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning — Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

- **Patience is a virtue that carries a lot of "wait."**

3. The Problem that Resulted!

A. It caused Family Trouble.

Genesis 16:4-6 (NKJV)

4 So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The Lord judge between you and me." 6 So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

B. It caused Future Problems.

Genesis 16:7-12 (NKJV)

7 Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." 9 The Angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand." 10 Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude." 11 And the Angel of the Lord said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction. 12 He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

C. It created a Faith Perspective.

Genesis 16:13-14 (NKJV)

13 Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?" 14 Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.