

Genesis

Chapter 16:1-2

👉 **Gen 16:1-2** 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.*

These are the only two verses we will be studying this week. The reason is the Lord has given me so much that we just can't skim over it to get through this chapter. This will be a very challenging study for all of us. Unless you ignore it.

When I read these verses I see a couple of things. Starting in verse 2 we read Sarai saying:

👉 *So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children.*

As I read this I have to wonder if Abram told Sarai what God had spoken to him? God NEVER said that Sarai would NOT be the mother of Abram's children.

Remember in the beginning we read about a man and woman being one

✠ **Gen 2:24** *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

God didn't change His mind when He spoke the promise to Abram. But it seems that Sarai forgot, and it appears that Abram did to, because he heeded Sarai's words. Also we see that Abram brought Egypt with him to the land that God wanted Abram to be in.

👉 *And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.*

Remember when we read about Abram asking if his servant Eliezer would inherit the land?

✠ **Gen 15:2-3 (NLT)** *But Abram replied, "O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since I don't have a son, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth. You have given me no children, so one of my servants will have to be my heir."*

It is possible that this was an Egyptian also, since Sarai had an Egyptian handmaid, which would be in a sense her right hand woman. Just as the servant was Abram's right hand man, who could very well have been Egyptian also.

And where did these servants come from?

- † **Gen 12:16** *He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.*
- † **Gen 12:20** *So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.*

Remember that Abram and Sarai lied, and as a result of this lie, Abram obtained male and female servants, and as we now see they became a stumbling block to them.

And finally Abram listened to his wife more than God.

✎ *And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.*

We saw this also with Adam and Eve where Adam heeded the voice of his wife rather than God.

- † **Gen 2:16-17** *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*
- † **Gen 3:6** *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.*

So how do we apply this to us today?

As husbands, we are responsible for the teaching in our families, and if our wives or children come to us with a doctrine that is not according to the bible, we are not to accept it, but teach them the correct way. Just as Abram and Adam should have taught their wives the correct way instead of listening to them.

Next Abram bought Egypt into his household.

What baggage are you bringing to your walk with the Lord that is from your old sinful ways?

- † **2 Cor 6:17-18** *Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."* (underlined for emphasis)
- † **Isaiah 52:11** *Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean, You who bear the vessels of the LORD.* (underlined for emphasis)

† **John 15:19** *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." (underlined for emphasis)*

† **Eph 5:11-14** *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."*

Abram brought his baggage from Egypt, now it would become a stumbling block in his marriage but not only that, but also to the Israelites.

† **Psalms 83:1-6** *Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold Your peace, And do not be still, O God! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; And those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, And consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, "Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, That the name of Israel may be remembered no more." For they have consulted together with one consent; They form a confederacy against You: The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab and the Hagrites;*

And later as we will read, it will cause anger and even attempted murder in Sarai's heart.

"Why am I going through these problems?" we ask. Once again what baggage are you bringing into your relationship with God or your marriage? Today is the day to dump it all, not tomorrow or next week but today. If Abram had left his baggage in Egypt, then they would have had to depend on God's way and not their own. But they tried to bring in the things of this world to do God's will. If you don't have it to use, then you can't use it.

"But it's old memories that I just got to have, they represent where I came from and even who I am today." Where we came from was the pit of hell, and God saved us from it, and who you are today is what God has made you.

Maybe you are dating or even planning on getting married. Is the old sinful ways or even the hurts and pains of the past in your relationship right now? You could be hiding them or using someone else to help get rid of them. No relationship with any person can do this, it's just like a Band-Aid covering your hurt, but God is the healer of all things, including your past. Don't use someone else to be a Band-Aid because eventually they will end up getting hurt. And if you really love them you won't want to hurt them.

Maybe it's not a person, but a thing from your past that brings back those old memories. Sometimes we even try to use them to worship the Lord or do His work.

As we already read in:

† 2 Cor 6:17 *Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you* (underlined for emphasis)

Come out, just as He told Abram to come out of Egypt. But God never told Abram to bring Egypt with them.

There is a case of where God did tell the children of Israel to bring things out of Egypt, and basically it was pay for their past years of work. And it was intended to be used for the Lord. But then some of the Israelites used it to make their own God. It became a stumbling block for them also. Now this wasn't God's fault, but man's, because he worshiped what God had given him instead of using it to worship God.

Finally we see Sarai helping out the Lord with His promise to Abram. Now we can condemn Sarai for her disbelief in God, but then was it disbelief. Remember that God told Abram that He would multiply his seed, not Sarai's.

† Gen 15:4-6 *And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir." 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." And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.*

There is no mention of Sarai in this verse or previously in chapter 13. But then once again, it should also be considered that this is God speaking, and God would not want to have Abram sin by being with another woman.

Also consider that the practice of handmaids given to wives husbands to bear children was not an unusual thing in these days. But still it was not the ways of God; it was man's ways.

Satan is so clever, he knew how to get to Abram and it was through the one that was closest to him, his wife. Many that are in any type of ministry, seem to have problems when they're doing the Lords work. Satan knows that if he can get to the marriage, then he has a good chance of destroying a ministry.

Satan tried to use Hagar to destroy God's promise to Abram, and even more the promise of the Messiah, which would come through, not only Abram, but Sarai also.

What about you? What, or who is Satan using to try and destroy what God would have you to do? Satan knows your weakness, and that is where he will attack. He also knows weakness that you may have not thought of for a while, do they seem to be creeping up lately? If that is the case, stop and think, what is the Lord having you doing lately? Have you stopped doing what the Lord has you to do so the attacks will stop, or have you decided to press on with what God would have you to do?

I would urge you not to try and stand and battle satan by your own strength.

† **Jude 1:9** *Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

If the archangel Michael did not battle satan, what makes you think you can?
But we are also not to fear, but stand strong in the Lord.

† **Ex 14:13-14** *And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."*

† **Deut 1:30** *'The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,*

† **Eph 6:12** *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

† **Isaiah 35:4** *Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."*

We are not to be frightened and weak Christians, but stand strong in the Lord.

† **Hag 2:4** *'Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts.*

Finally:

† **Romans 8:31** *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

Who can be against you? A close friend, your spouse, your boss, or even your children?
If you are doing God's will in God's way, who would want to be against you?
The fact is they are not against you, but against God and what He's doing through you.