

Genesis

Chapter 16:10-16

✠ **Gen 16:10-12** 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."*

The first question we have when we read this is, who is the Angel of the Lord? I believe that this is Jesus. Why do I say that? Simply by the statement made by Him in verse 10.

✠ *"I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."*

If it were an angel sent by God to bring His message then it would have been "God will multiply your descendants exceedingly."
But that's not what it says, it says, "I will". Now an angel could not make that claim only God can.

Also the next promise sounds very similar to a promise God made to Abram twice.

✠ **Gen 13:16** *And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.*

Now you may be saying, "Steve we have read this verse about a million times already, why do you have to keep bringing it up?"

We at one time or another get discouraged in our walk with the Lord. We ask, where are you God? We start doubting God and what He says. Sometimes we just want to throw our hands up and walk away. I want to encourage you, to not be discouraged.

✠ **Heb 12:3** *For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

Or as the whole verse in it's proper context reads in the NLT.

✠ **Heb 12:1-4** (NLT) ¹ *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die*

a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven. ³ Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up. ⁴ After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

So many times we get discouraged because we focus our eyes on our problems instead of Jesus.

“But it’s so hard not to look at my problems. How do I take my eyes off of them?” you may ask.

It’s called faith and trusting in Jesus. Remember the bible’s definition of faith?

† **Heb 11:1** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Although you may not be able to see the final results of what you are going through, God does and He will **“NEVER”** leave you or forsake you. And what about trusting God?

† **Psalms 56:3-4** *Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?*

† **Psalms 118:8** *It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man.*

† **2 Sam 22:31-32** *As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?*

† **Nahum 1:7** *The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.*

† **2 Tim 1:12** *For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.*

Do you know who you believe in? If it’s God where is your trust in Him?

“It’s just to big of a problem, I don’t know if God can take care of this one.” You may be saying. Are you now limiting what God is able to do?

Today, whatever you are going through, or may be about to go through. God wants you to know that, He has been, is, and always will be with you. Do not be discouraged or dismayed! Who is like our God high above all the earth, creator of all things! No there is none like Him!!!

By the promise made to Abram; God was letting Hagar know that she was a part of that promise. Not the fulfillment of that promise but just a part of it.

Ishmael name means = “God that hears” or "God will hear"

The first words we hear from Hagar out of this whole ordeal is:

† **Gen 16:8** *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." (underlined for emphasis)*

Notice He doesn't call her Abram's wife. God was not acknowledging the sin that was committed, but was rather being God; working in His special way regardless of the way man messes up.

There was no mention of Hagar complaining or crying out to God at all. But it says that ***“Because the LORD has heard your affliction.”***

So you can bet that Hagar was crying out to God through this whole ordeal possible saying, *“Why God, What have I done wrong to be treated like this? I did everything I was told to do and this is what I get for it.”* And God heard her cry and came and comforted Hagar, just when she needed Him most. And this is not the only time, but as we go on in the study of Genesis we will see another time very similar to this one.

Jesus also say's what type of man this child will grow up to be:

✠ **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.*

Or as the NLT puts it:

✠ **Gen 16:12 (NLT)** *This son of yours will be a wild one--free and untamed as a wild donkey! He will be against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live at odds with the rest of his brothers."*

And his descendants will play a very important part in the lives of the children of Israel.

† **Gen 37:25-28** ²⁵ *And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. ²⁶ So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.*

This is the story of Joseph and when his brothers conspired to kill him. But instead he was sold into slavery and because of this we can see the mighty things God has done in Joseph's life to deliver him and the children of Israel from the hands of their enemies, the Egyptians.

✠ **Gen 16:13-16** 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.*

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.*

In Darby's translation Verse 13 reads:

✠ **Gen 16:13 (Darby's)** *And she called the name of Jehovah who spoke to her, Thou art the ùGod who reveals himself, for she said, Also here have I seen after he has revealed himself.*

Hagar, an Egyptian woman, acknowledged God for who He is. We also see this in the RSV.

✠ **Gen 16:13 (RSV)** *So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "Thou art a God of seeing"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing him?"*

God truly takes the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. And once again He proves it through an Egyptian servant. The chosen ones of God, Abram and Sarai did not acknowledge God for who He really is at this time.

We even see this in the New Testament where Paul and Barnabas became frustrated with the Jewish people and went to the Gentiles

† **Acts 13:46-47** ⁴⁶ *Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.* ⁴⁷ *"For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"*

There comes a point in your witness where you just have to throw your hands up and go to others who will listen. Now you don't stop praying for them and allowing them to see Jesus in you. But they are the ones who want to argue about the bible instead of being open about it. So you just have to walk away.

It's like the Proverb of Jesus.

† **Matt 7:6** *Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.*

Swine don't want pearls, although they are very valuable. But swine don't know that. They would rather have slop thrown at them, because that is the only thing they know to satisfy their needs. And if you give them what they don't want, then they will attack you. It's the same thing with the world, they don't want the pure things of God. Instead they want the filth of this world because that's all they know. And if you don't bring them what they want, even though it's bad for them, they will attack you.

That's where the arguing over the bible comes in.

You give them the pure word of God, but all they know is the lies of Satan, so they don't accept God's word as any use to them, until the Lord opens their eyes to the truth.

✠ *14 Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.*

Beer Lahai Roi means: "Well of the living One who sees me."

Kadesh = Holiness.

Bered = "hail" or praise.

An interesting place Kadesh, this is the place where the children of Israel sinned against God and didn't believe in His promise of the land flowing with milk and honey.

† **Num 13:26-29** *26 Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 "Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 "The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."*

At Kadesh Israel did not go into the promise land of God. And at Kadesh Hagar was told to return with a promise.

✠ *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.*

Noticed who named Ishmael, it wasn't Hagar but Abram. Look back at the beginning of the study in verse 11 where the Angel instructed Hagar.

† ***“You shall call his name Ishmael,”***

But Abram named him, so how did this happen if the Angel spoke to Hagar? It's very possible that Hagar told Abram what had happened after she returned. And Abram wanting to be obedient to God listened to God's words to Hagar and named him what God wanted him named.

It's like when someone speaks to you God's word and it cuts into your heart because you know that it's not their words but God speaking to you through them.

Remember the meaning of Ishmael name: *“God that hears”* or *“God will hear”*

Abram may have forgotten about God's promise to him and his wife Sarai. But Abram knew the meaning of Ishmael's name, and it was probably like God speaking to him through an Egyptian slave. But then God will use anyone to speak to you. It does not necessarily have to be a Christian. Has God been trying to speak to you through somebody this week? Are you listening?

Finally Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael was born. Remember last week we saw that Abram was 75 when He left Haran and around 76 when the promise was made to him.

So here it is ten years later, but still as we saw last week, he still will have to wait another 16 years before Gods promise comes to pass.