

Lesson #14: ISHMAEL'S BIRTH, AND GOD'S PROMISE TO ISAAC

Genesis 16:17-27

It had been ten years already, and Abram and Sarai still did not have a baby that God had promised. They began to worry, and imagine that maybe God wouldn't or couldn't do what he had promised. They decided to get a child by the world's ways.

Sarai gave her servant girl Hagar to Abram as a secondary wife, and she was with child. Because of her situation she began to despise her mistress, and there was great difficulty and unhappiness in Abram's home. Sarai blamed Abram for the situation, so Abram told Sarai she could deal with the situation in any way she chose. Sarai chose to make Hagar's life miserable, and Hagar ran away.

The angel of the Lord found Hagar in the wilderness, by a fountain of water. He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where did you come from and where are you going?"

Hagar replied, "I am running away from my mistress Sarai."

The angel of the Lord said, "Return to your mistress Sarai and obey what she tells you to do. I will multiply her descendants exceedingly, so that they can not be counted because there are so many." The angel of the Lord continued. "You are with child and will give birth to a son. Call him Ishmael: because the Lord has heard your trouble. Your son will be a wild man. He will fight with everyone."

Hagar called the name of the Lord that spoke with her, "Lord you see me." For she said, "Have I looked here after him who sees me?" The well where Hagar met the Lord is called Beer-la-hai-roi, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

After this Hagar bore Abram a son and called his name Ishmael. Abram was eighty six years old when this son was born.

When Abram was ninety nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am the Almighty God, walk before me and be perfect. And I will make a covenant with you and me, and multiply your descendants exceedingly. You will be a father of many nations.

Then Abram fell on his face to worship the Lord. The Lord changed the name of Abram to Abraham, and again promised him he would give him the land of Canaan for an inheritance forever. The Lord told Abraham, "You shall change the name of Sarai to Sarah, and I will give you a son of her. She shall be a mother of many nations.

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed in his heart. "Shall a child be born to him that is an hundred years old and to her that is ninety years old?" Because of his great age he thought it impossible for him and Sarah to have a child.

Abraham said to the Lord, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before you."

The Lord replied to Abraham, "Sarah your wife will have a son, and you will call his name Isaac. My covenant will be with him. But I have heard your prayer and will bless Ishmael also. But my covenant is with Isaac, not Ishmael."

Then the Lord left and Abraham circumcised all the males in his household. Abraham was ninety nine years old and Ishmael was thirteen years old.

PRINCIPLE: Wait on the Lord to do the things he has promised.

LEARN:

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:8-9

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2 Cat oad, peste ea constructii papera - Water color Hagey, Sarah + Abram

