

First Southern Baptist Bible Study - November 13, 2019
Sarai Casts Out Hagar - Genesis 16:1-16

Introduction:

1. Themes:
 - authority, who is the boss
 - child of promise/ child of impatience
 - testing of God/ or circumstances
2. Sarai is the main character in 16, Abram in 15
 - how important is Sarai in the bearing of seed? - duh?
3. God's way/ man's way

I. Another Way (verses 1-2)

1. Introduction of characters
 - A. "Handmaid" - not concubine, not servant
 - B. Contrast of characters:
 - Sarai
 - old
 - barren
 - free
 - wife (status)
 - Hagar
 - young
 - fertile
 - slave
 - handmaid (status)
 - C. Ishmael the "wild man" -see verse 12
2. Hand has "restrained" me
 - God has... therefore
 - Sarai's idea
3. After 10 years (verse 3)
 - since last contact with God
4. A plan built on impatience
 - my calendar/ God's calendar

II. Abram Listened (verses 3-4)

1. "Hearkened"
 - Abram "complies" - "agreed to" (2)
 - note the similarities with Adam and Eve
2. Conceived
3. Then Hagar "despised" Sarai
 - "despise" means to hold in contempt or treat lightly
 - at 21:9-21 Ishmael threatens Isaac
4. The eyes - began to despise her in her eyes
 - Eve "saw" the fruit - "pleasing to the eyes"

- David “saw” Bathsheba
- Peter almost drowned because he took his eyes off Jesus
- *The way you “look” at things is what you bring to the table

III. Sarai talks to Abram (verses 5-6)

1. My wrong be on thee
2. The Lord judge between us
3. “But” Abram said
 - thy maid is in thy hand
 - it is your call
4. The theme of authority
 - she convinces her man (she is under his authority - as husband)
 - he complies... follows her lead
 - she blames him for the outcome (as if to say, “you should’ve stopped me”)
 - he says she is in your hand (authority)
 - return and submit to your mistress (the angel’s words)
5. The wages of sin is death - things got tough when Hagar got pregnant
 - when we get what we want, we don’t want what we wanted*

IV. Sarai Deals with It

1. Deals hard with her
2. Hagar flees
 - to Shur on the way to Egypt (7)

V. Found by God (verses 7-14)

1. “Angel” of the Lord
 - A. Angel of God - God of Bethel and tells Jacob to return home
 - see 31:11-13
 - B. “Christophany” - appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament
 - Ex. 23:20-23 -angel has power to forgive sin
 - Clear it is deity
 - Like - Fourth man in the fire
2. Found her
 - *God reached out to an outcast Gentile to rescue her/ save her
3. Where are you going? (8)
 - I flee
4. Return and submit (9)
 - return and humble yourself under “hand”
5. God’s promise (10) - a backhanded blessing, though a wild man
 - I will multiply (10)
 - with child - call him “Ishmael” (11)
 - God has heard your affliction
 - prediction - a “wild man” (12)
 - Four statements about the “wild” man:
 - 1) a wild donkey of a man
 - 2) hostile toward everyone

- 3) everyone's hand against him
- 4) extent - aimed at all his brothers
- 6. You God, "see" me (13)
Well named "Beer-la-hai-roi"
- 7. Read 21:9-21 where God finds Hagar and Ishmael (again) and saves them - after being cast out a second time (Paul's use of Sarah and Hagar at Galatians 4 is a take off on the chapter 21 passage)

VI. Ishmael is Born (verses 15-16)

- 1. Names him Ishmael (15)
- 2. Mentioned three times that he came from Abram (in 15-16)
- 3. Abram was 86 (16)
- 4. End of the chapter - open ended and ambiguous
 - what will God do with this mess
 - Abram tried with Eliezar (chapter 15)
 - Sarai tried with Hagar (chapter 16)
- 5. Still no son... and nothing but a miracle will make God's promise happen - God's faithfulness is seen against the backdrop of Abram's (and Sarai's) failure

Lessons:

- be patient with God's timetable. When all you have left is God you find out that God is enough.
- the wages of sin... the hits just keep on coming:
 - 1) Lack of faith (both Sarai and Abram)
 - 2) Yields to her choice
 - 3) Hagar despises Sarai
 - 4) Sarai's complaint
 - 5) Abram's bickering
 - 6) Now she is head of the household - ???
 - 7) Cast out
 - 8) Sent back... to submit...
- God sees (13) - Beer-la-hai-roi
- God hears (15) - Ishmael
- God works with messes