

**Wait Upon El Roi**  
**2015-11-22**

**Gen 16:1-16**

God's **sovereignty not problem** if **doesn't conflict** w/our **desires** or **timetable**.

- When **fulfillment** of God's promises **delayed** we "**help Him out**" but our **contingency plans** to God's way **inevitably result** in **pain not progress**.

**10 yrs** since promise: now **Abram 85 & Sarai 75** discouraged by **barrenness**.

- **Purpose** in **everything** God does, **including delays**.
  - **Son** must be **seen** as **divine miracle**, traceable to **God's will & power**.
    - But **impatience, fear & lack of faith** lead A&S make **tragic mistake**

In **accordance w/custom** give **Abram** her **Egyptian maid**. Gen 16:1-4, Rom 14:23

- **Right** in **eyes** of **society/contemporaries**, but **wrong** in **God's eyes**.
  - **not give in** to **culture/expedience**, **even if right motives & godly goal**.

**Abram capitulates** to pressure **w/o prayer** or **weighing implications**

- **Problem isn't listening** to wife; but **abdicating spiritual leadership**.
  - **Husbands** assume **loving leadership** in home & **wives let** them **take it**.

God **not stop** Abram because he **not ask** for **God's wisdom/guidance**.

- So what **begin** in **Egypt** ends in **bedroom w/Egyptian** slave which **resulted** in **sin, misery** for **all involved** & entire **human race** for all earthly time. Gal 4:29
  - **Israeli-Arab conflict** traced **back** to this **decision** to "**help God**".

**Sin abounds** in **initial actions** & in their **responses** to dilemma their sin brought.

- **No confession/repentance**, nor **confronting** others **sin**. Rom. 5:20 & 2:4

**Abandoned** by **family & forgotten** by Abram's **God**: H fled. Gen 16:6-9, 1 Pet 2:18-21

- **Running** from problems **never answer**. **Can't hide** from **God** who **put** you there
  - She **not need change** of **location** but **change** of **heart**.
- **God calls** Hagar to **humble herself**: return & submit.
  - **Be under authority** God has ordained. Teen/parents, married/spouse in **spite of difficulties....not physical abuse**. Eph 6:1,
    - **Obedience** always comes **before blessing**.

**Focuses** Hagar on **future & His promises** **not** on **wrongs done** to her. Gen 16:10-13

- In **response** to **feeling loved/cared** for by God she **does** what **nobody else** **does** in Bible: **names God**. *El Roi*= "**one who sees**". If He **sees**, then He **cares**.
- **God saw** Hagar's **affliction**; as result, **Hagar saw** God's **mercy & submitted**.

**Return** of Hagar **humbling** for **A&S** who **lived w/consequences** of actions.

- **A&S back** where **started**, **childless** but **now** w/many **troubles/sorrows**.
  - How **amazingly loving**, patient, **forgiving God** is: **A&S still vehicle** for working out of His **purposes: Messiah**.

**Lord** in **control** of **your circumstances**. He **cares** for you; **don't doubt** His **love**. 2 Pet. 3:9, Gal 4:22-26, Is 40:27-31, 49:15-16a

- "**spiritual birth**" **God's gracious work** **not product own efforts**.
- **To grow** in **godliness**, we **must grow** in **patience**. Eph. 1:11
  - **Faith seldom strengthened** by **success** but by **trusting** God in **midst** of **delays & difficulties**.
- **Obedience & patience** is **hard**, but **disobedience & "helping God"** in **flesh** **inevitably produce sin & misery**.
  - **He sees/knows future**, **trust** Him & **wait upon Lord**.

Gen 16:1-16

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.

4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. 5 And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" 6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

7 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." 11 And the angel of the Lord said to her,

"Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

13 So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.