

The Seed of Impatience

Genesis 16

A Concert of Sin

Sarai, Abram and Hagar

- Sarai attempted to fulfill the divine promise through Hagar which results in strife.
- Abram like Adam before him agreed to his wife's faithless suggestion.
- Hagar forgot it was God who made Sarai barren and God who gave her the gift of child. She gloried in that which there is no cause for pride.
- Failure of faith leads to an attempt to provide by human means what the Lord is accused of withholding.

Where is God?

Genesis 16:1-6

- Sarai seems to have considered it her responsibility to produce a son for Abram.
- Nowhere is either Abram or Sarai given the responsibility to produce a son.
- Sarai is reluctant to accept God sovereignly prevented her from having a son.
- Abram listened? Was she asking for reassurance of his love? Did she need to be reminded of God's promise?
- Hagar's ability to conceive causes her to look down on Sarai.
- Sarai directs her anger toward Abram who allows Sarai to deal harshly with Hagar.
- The human solution only causes problems.

The Angel of the Lord

Genesis 16:7-16

- Angel = Messenger. When the "Angel of the Lord" speaks his words are perceived as being God's words.
- Hagar's flight from Sarai takes her back toward Egypt.
- Hagar answered only one of the Angel's questions.
- Hagar is commanded by God to transform her attitude toward her mistress. She is to submit to authority. *1 Peter 2:18-20*
- The Angel's announcement is similar to that given to Mary. *Luke 1:26-38*
- Ishmael means "God Hears"
- Unlike Hagar her son will be strongly independent, not servile to others, but will live a life of hostility toward others.
- By naming Ishmael Abram publicly acknowledges him as son.
- Ishmael is born 11 years after Abram settled back in Canaan.

The True Heir

- Jesus' genealogy is traced thru Isaac not Ishmael. *Matthew 1:1-17, Romans 9:7*
- Christ is the true "seed" promised to Abraham. *Galatians 3:16, 29*