



By Faith

Genesis 12-25

Genesis 16:1

Abram's wife, Sarai, had not borne any children for him, but she owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar.

Genesis 16:1-6

Abram's wife, Sarai, had not borne any children for him, but she owned an Egyptian slave named Hagar.
² Sarai said to Abram, "Since the LORD has prevented me from bearing children, go to my slave; perhaps through her I can build a family." And Abram agreed to what Sarai said. ³ So Abram's wife, Sarai, took Hagar, her Egyptian slave, and gave her to her husband, Abram, as a wife for him. This happened after Abram had lived in the land of Canaan ten years...

⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she saw that she was pregnant, her mistress became contemptible to her. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for my suffering! I put my slave in your arms, and when she saw that she was pregnant, I became contemptible to her. May the LORD judge between me and you.”

⁶ Abram replied to Sarai, “Here, your slave is in your power; do whatever you want with her.” Then Sarai mistreated her so much that she ran away from her.

MAIN IDEA

In Genesis 16, God's mercy prevails even when His people mistreat one who is outside of the believing community. While His people are foolish, God is compassionate. He pursues the one who is wandering away and leads her to become a worshipper.

Genesis 3:6

Eve took some of its fruit... she also gave some to her husband.

Genesis 16:3

Sarai took her Egyptian slave, and gave her to her husband.

Hebrews 10:35-36

So don't throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶ For you need endurance, so that after you have done God's will, you may receive what was promised.

Genesis 16:7-16

⁷ The angel of the LORD found her by a spring in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ He said, “Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?” She replied, “I’m running away from my mistress Sarai.”

⁹ The angel of the LORD said to her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her authority.” ¹⁰ The angel of the LORD said to her, “I will greatly multiply your offspring, and they will be too many to count...”

¹¹ The angel of the LORD said to her, “You have conceived and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard your cry of affliction. ¹² This man will be like a wild donkey. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone’s hand will be against him; he will settle near all his relatives.”

¹³ So she named the LORD who spoke to her: “You are El-roi,” for she said, “In this place, have I actually seen the one who sees me?” ¹⁴ That is why the well is called Beer-lahai-roi. It is between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ So Hagar gave birth to Abram’s son, and Abram named his son (whom Hagar bore) Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

It is clear... that the angel of Yahweh is a visible manifestation (either in human form or in fiery form) of Yahweh that is essentially indistinguishable from Yahweh himself. The angel of Yahweh is more a representation of God than a representative of God.

Victor Hamilton

Genesis 16:12

This man will be like a wild donkey. His hand will be against everyone, and everyone's hand will be against him; he will settle near all his relatives.

Genesis 17:18

So Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael were acceptable to you!”

Genesis 17:20

As for Ishmael, I have heard you. I will certainly bless him; I will make him fruitful and will multiply him greatly. He will father twelve tribal leaders, and I will make him into a great nation.