

GENESIS 16:1-16

ABRAM: NO SHORTCUTS ALLOWED

NOVEMBER 4, 2018

ISHMAEL

As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year." (Genesis 17:20-21)

Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife. After the death of Abraham, God blessed Isaac his son. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi. These are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's servant, bore to Abraham. These are the names of the sons of Ishmael, named in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael; and Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah. These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages and by their encampments, twelve princes according to their tribes. (These are the years of the life of Ishmael: 137 years. He breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.) They settled from Havilah to Shur, which is opposite Egypt in the direction of Assyria. He settled over against all his kinsmen. (Genesis 25:8-18)

Genesis 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. (12) 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.

**SOMETHING ACTUALLY HAPPENS WHILE NOTHING IS HAPPENING.
GOD USES WAITING TO CHANGE US. – JADE MAZARIN**

WAIT FOR THE LORD; BE STRONG, AND LET YOUR HEART TAKE COURAGE; WAIT FOR THE LORD! (PSALM 27:14)

PROBLEM #1: NOT EVERY DAY IS LIKE THAT DAY

(1Corinthians 10:12) Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

- GOD'S PRESENCE IS NOT ALWAYS SO OBVIOUS
- GOD'S PROMISES ARE NOT ALWAYS SO CLEARLY IN VIEW
- GOD'S TIMING IS NOT ALWAYS CONVENIENT

PROBLEM #2: GOD'S PROMISES DON'T COME WHEN WE WANT THEM

And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:11-12)

- GOD'S TIMING IS NOT BOUND BY OUR DESIRES OR TIMETABLE, BUT GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS PERFECT AND BOUND UP IN HIS PURPOSES
- IMPATIENCE = LACK OF FAITH IN GOD'S ABILITY TO KEEP HIS PROMISES

PROBLEM #3: GOD DOESN'T NEED OUR HELP, BUT WE LIKE TO TRY TO GIVE IT

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

- IMPATIENCE TOWARD GOD WILL DEMONSTRATE ITSELF IN ACTION WITHOUT FAITH
- ACTION WITHOUT FAITH WILL LEAD US TO PURSUE EXPEDIENCY, NOT FAITHFULNESS
- PURSUING EXPEDIENCY INSTEAD OF FAITHFULNESS WILL EXPOSE UNGODLY / SINFUL DESIRES
- SINFUL DESIRES WILL ALWAYS LEAD TO DESTRUCTION: OF SELF AND OTHERS
 - RELATIONSHIPS ARE DESTROYED
 - FUTURES ARE DAMAGED
- BUT GOD'S PURPOSES AND PLANS FOR HIS PEOPLE CANNOT BE DESTROYED

SOLUTION: GOD WILL INTERVENE

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:25-26)

- THE LORD HEARS
- THE LORD SEES
- THE LORD PROMISES
- THE LORD COMMANDS
- THE LORD DELIVERS

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31)

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. (2 Peter 3:8-9)