

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JUNE 15, 2022

GENESIS 16

INTRODUCTION:

1. In chapter 15, God confirms His promise to Abram that he would be a great nation.
 - a) **GENESIS 15.2,3:** *“O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless”*
 - b) **GENESIS 15.4:** *“one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”*
2. Abram and Sarai attempted to help God fulfill his promise by giving him a son from his own body by Hagar. (cf. Gen. 30.3)

I. WHO WAS HAGAR?

- A. **GENESIS 16.1:** *“Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.”*
 1. Hagar: “flight” or “forsaken.” (Gen. 16.6; 21.9-11,14)
 2. Hagar was an “*Egyptian maidservant*” She was most likely given to Abram by Pharaoh while he was in Egypt. (Gen. 12.14-16)
- B. **GENESIS 16.2:** *“Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.”*
 1. Hagar was the wife of Abram. (Gen. 16.3).
 - a) In eastern culture, men could have multiple wives. (Gen. 4.19,23; 26.34; 31.17)
 - b) These were only given with permission from the first wife. (Gen. 30.4,9)
 2. Hagar was the mother of Ishmael. (Gen. 16.4).
 - a) Ishmael: “God hears” (Gen. 16.11)
 - b) Ishmael would also become a great nation. (Gen. 16.10; 17.20)
 - c) Esau’s wife was Hagar’s granddaughter. (Gen. 28.9)

II. SLAVERY IN THE BIBLE

- A. How is slavery defined in the Bible?
 1. Slaves were people captured during war. (Gen. 14.11,12; Deut. 20.10,11)
 2. Slaves were people enslaved by the government for not paying taxes.
 - a) The parable of the merciful king. (Matt. 18.22-27)
 - b) Today is no different. Failing to pay taxes carries a sentence of prison.
 3. Children were sold into slavery to pay their parents’ debt. (Neh. 5.4,5)
 4. Individuals sold themselves into slavery to pay their debt. (Lev. 25.39,40)
- B. God never endorsed slavery but allowed evil to exist. (cf. Acts 17.30)
 1. Paul condemned slavery by equating it with murder. (1 Tim. 1.9,10)
 2. Philemon was to receive back Onesimus “*no longer as a slave*” (Phile. 16).
 3. If people lived in a culture where slavery was part of the landscape, there were rules that governed the behavior of those living in that environment.
 - a) Treat everyone with love and respect. (Rom. 13.8-10, context: vs.1-7)
 - b) Be submissive to anyone in a position of authority. (1 Pet. 5.5)
- C. God’s commandments given to slaves and masters.
 1. **EPHESIANS 6.6-9:** Masters and slaves are to treat each other with respect.
 2. **COLOSSIANS 3.22-4.1:** Masters and slaves are to remember who they serve.
 3. **1 TIMOTHY 6.1,2:** Slaves are to treat their masters with respect.
 4. **1 PETER 2.18:** Serve with fear, even those who treat them harshly.
- D. Generally, all Christians are to live in submission to those in authority.
 1. Children are to be submissive to parents. (Eph. 6.1)
 2. Citizens are to be submissive to governing authorities. (1 Pet. 2.13)
 3. Brethren are to be submissive to the elders. (Heb. 13.17)
 4. Younger people are to be submissive to older people. (1 Pet. 5.5)