

Israel's Patriarch

A Study in Genesis 12-24

A God of Seeing
Genesis 16:1-16
August 23, 2020

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." - **Genesis 16:13**

I. SELF HELP — MAKING MATTERS WORSE

- Ten years have passed living in Canaan, and Sarai and Abram are growing restless for an heir (Gen. 15:3, 16:1-3, 30:1).
- Abram, the man of faith, becomes a man of unbelief. He knows God's promise, but he attempts an end-around. He can be contrasted with Joseph, King David, and Jesus, whose faith in God's promise prompted patience (Gen. 50:19-21; 1 Sam. 15:1-23, 24:6; Matt 4:1-11; John 8:29).
- The interaction between Sarai and Abram is highly suggestive of the interaction between Eve and her husband Adam in Genesis 3 (see Gen. 3:2, 3:6, 3:17).
- God's people are a tested people (Mark 1:12; Luke 8:13; Heb. 3:8; James 1:2-4).

II. A GOD WHO IS SEEN, IS SOUGHT, AND IS FOUND

- Hagar heads toward home (Egypt). There the "angel of the LORD" found her (Gen. 3:9, 16:7; 1 Kings 19:9; Matt. 1:20).
- Hagar, the "servant of Sarai," is called to submit and to trust. Her connection to Abram will bring blessings upon her and her son (Gen. 16:10).
- Ishmael will be blessed and watched over, but he will not be the promised child (Gen. 17:17-21).
- God sees all and he cares for those who are discarded (Gen. 16:7-14, 21:8-21; Luke 7:11-17; John 4:1-42; Acts 17:22-31).
- God is found by those who seek him. He reveals himself (Deut. 4:29; Prov. 8:17; Jer. 29:13; Matt. 7:7-8; Acts 8:26-40, 10:1-46, 17:22-31).
- It is good to wait on the Lord (Ps. 27:13-14, 131:1-3).

KNOW: Human ingenuity will not, on its own, bring to pass the promises of God. Faith, trust, and patience will. Our God is seen and he can be found.

DO: Wait on the Lord. Your patience will be rewarded.

Suggested Reading:

Waiting on God by Andrew Murray (LifePoint Library #248.32 MUR)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Genesis 16:1-15

1. Why is Sarai so anxious to have a child?
2. What moral implications do you see in this interaction between Sarai and her husband? Does Abram respond appropriately?
3. What type of woman is Hagar?
4. Is Abram's response to Sarai's anger over Hagar's lack of respect godly?
5. Who is the only godly character in this whole exchange in chapter 16?
6. Does God care for the downhearted and discarded? How do you know?
7. What are your takeaways from this message?