

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
GENESIS 16 & 21

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Genesis 16: 1-6, When Faith Becomes Weary

Sarai's came up with the plan 10 years after the promise of an heir was given. 20-25-year gap between promise and fulfillment. Faith can become weary.

The Hagar factor---Issue in Bible is not race nor culture but theology and class
Slavery is still slavery

We must be careful about giving God help when God's timing is different from ours
Almighty God welcomes our participation but not our intrusion or our plans as replacement

Our plans will backfire when we are walking by faith and insert our own ideas that are not

Led by God's word or spirit

Hagar's attitude

Hagar's right to be angry

Anger or affirmation

Genesis 16: 7-16, The woman who gave God a name

Hagar runs away and God finds her

God will always find us no matter what condition we are in

God found Hagar without her praying or seeking

God's strange instructions to her to return to an abusive situation

God's instructions to Hagar concerned her situation and is not to be applied universally

God's instructions were based upon the son she would bear who was Abraham's responsibility and who needed at birth the shelter and security of Abraham's tent

Hagar gives God a name

Jacob, "What is your name?"

Moses, "Who shall I say who sent me?"

Saul of Tarsus, "Who are you Lord?"

Mary told to name her child Jesus

Risen Lord introduces himself to John on Patmos

Hagar's name---"El Roi" ---God sees because God saw her

We believe in God based upon what we have been taught or by faith in the promise of God, but we personally know God primarily based upon our personal experiences with God

Healer

Provider

Deliverer

Counselor/Comforter

Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior

Holy Spirit

Genesis 21: 1-14, Blessed but Still Bitter

God keeps promise to Sarah and give her joy beyond expectation in her old age

Sarah's resentment of Hagar and Ishmael

Unhealed insecurity, anger and jealousy will still haunt us no matter how blessed we are

Insecurity and anger at the root of so much tension and bitterness and violence in

America today

America suffers from a Sarah problem (vss. 8-10)

Mideast tensions today spring from the Sarah and Abraham problem

The difficulty of retuning to the wilderness a second time

Verses 11-21, God's promise and provision in the wilderness

God heard the cry of the child

God shows Hagar a well

Another generation is dependent upon our faithfulness

Hagar finds a wife for her son in Egypt

When God provides there is no need to return to abuser or oppressor for anything

Verses 22-34, A Large Spirit Begets Generosity in Unexpected Places

Wisdom recognizes favor and seeks to befriend it not hate on it

Wisdom knows how to negotiate

Trouble always erupts when we forget our foundations

The Philistines who welcomed Abraham in time became enemies of God's people

They did not have the wisdom of their ancestor, Abimelech