

Genesis 16:1-16

Chapter 16 has a lot of information that applies to us today. This chapter could be titled "When Women Wear the Pants in the Family". What we are about to read in this chapter still effects us today.

- 1 ¶ Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.** Abram had taken his wife down into Egypt (the World) because there was a feminine and food was in Egypt. The Lord told Abram to trust Him. But he didn't completely trust God. When Pharaoh found out Abram had lied to him about Sarai, Pharaoh kicked Abram out of Egypt and told him to take what he wants on the way out. Hagar was probably part of that package, and she is still causing trouble to this day. Whenever you mess with the world, you do not escape unscathed.
- 2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray you, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.** Instead of talking to God about their heir situation, they took it upon themselves to make decisions about what to do about the lack of an heir. It was customary in those days that if the wife didn't conceive an heir, the maid was expected to be a surrogate mother of sorts. They didn't have in vitro fertilization, so Hagar had to go "be" with Abram in the biblical sense to conceive an heir for Abram and Sarai. Having no heir in those days was considered an absolute tragedy. Even though it was a customary practice to have a slave give birth to an heir for them, they didn't consult God and that was their mistake.
- 3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.** Sarai cooks up the deal to have Hagar the slave give birth to her and Abram's heir. But she decided by herself, without consulting God or Abram. Abram dropped the ball by not taking control of the situation and doing the right thing by consulting God.
- 4 ¶ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.** Since becoming pregnant herself, Hagar now hates Sarai. Hagar now starts getting snooty with Sarai because Hagar can have a baby and Sarai cannot.
- 5 And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon you: I have given my maid into your bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and you.** Notice what happens: Sarai decided all by herself to have the slave Hagar bear the heir, but Sarai now blames Abram and throws a temper tantrum because Hagar is acting to snooty. Now Sarai wants God to judge between them.
- 6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, your maid is in your hand; do to her as it pleases you. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.** Abram doesn't act like head of household; instead, he shifts the blame back on Sarai. Abram says she's your problem, and he orders Sarai to deal with it. If a wife tries to entice a husband to something, even if it's wrong, stick to your guns and do what the Lord orders, not your wife.
- 7 ¶ And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.** Sarai got mad and left Abram and talked to Hagar. Hagar ran away and started toward Egypt.
- 8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, where did you come from? And where will you go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.** God asks Hagar, where you going? and Hagar said, I'm running away from my mistress.
- 9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hands.** God instructs Hagar to go back and submit to Sarai and do her job well. Whatever your position in life, do it well.

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- 10 ¶ And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply your seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.** God is going to bless Hagar's descendants. This is the Arabic people today. These descendants are still fighting today: Israel and the Arabs. It has not ceased at all since this one little mistake thousands of years ago. Repercussions of your behavior can last for years and years, even generations.
- 11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, you art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard your affliction.** Ishmael means "God Hears".
- 12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.** Ishmael will be a wild man. He's going to live with everyone, but he's going to fight everyone around him. He'll fight his enemies; he'll fight his friends and family.
- 13 And she called the name of the LORD that spoke unto her, You God sees me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that sees me?** God was looking out for Hagar.
- 14 Wherefore the well was called Beerlahairoi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.**
- 15 ¶ And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.**
- 16 And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.** Abram was 86 years old; Sarai was 90; that's why they thought they would help God out. But God doesn't need man's help.