



Genesis

FATHER ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY OF FAITH

Genesis 16

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REDEMPTIVE HISTORY/FATHER ABRAHAM

ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY OF FAITH (Genesis 11:27-25:11)

The heart of this story is the chronicling of Abraham's faith journey and the stewarding of the promise of an heir. It is not a simple recounting of world history. It is primarily theological and spiritual in its orientation.

SARAI'S PLOT (Genesis 16:1-6)

- Sarai is barren and desperate.
- Sarai takes matters into her own hands.
- Abram consents (much like Adam).
- Sarai "took" and "gave" (much like Eve).
- Hagar became pregnant.
- Sarai responded to the "success of her plot" with disdain and anger.
- Hagar fled for her life.

GOD'S INTERVENTION (Genesis 16:7-16)

- Hagar fled toward Egypt.
- The Angel of the LORD
- God's direction to Hagar was to return to Sarai and submit to her.
- God's promise concerning Ishmael
- Hagar gives God a name --- the only time this occurs in the Bible.
- Hagar has a son and Abram names him, Ishmael.

ABRAM'S JOURNEY OF FAITH

1. The promise from God remains intact but unfulfilled.
2. The promise now has a new threat—a rival heir.
3. Sarai's seeming lack of faith has introduced many unintended consequences.
4. Ishmael and his descendants will serve as rivals to Isaac and his descendants (Genesis 21, 25).
5. The Apostle Paul will draw upon the rivalry between Hagar and Sarah in his theological development (Galatians 4).
6. Ishmael will become the son of promise in the theology of Islam.