

Trust God's Promise (Not In Hagar Genes)

Genesis 16:1-16

I. Impatience With God Is No Excuse For An Immoral Solution (Genesis 16:1-6)

A. The Dilemma Of _____ With God (1-2)

Isaiah 28:16 Whoever believes will not be in haste.

Romans 10:11 Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.

B. The Disturbance Of _____ Alternatives (3-4)

C. The Damage Of Individual Insurrection (5-6)

1. In Frustration, We _____ (5)

2. In Anger, We _____ (5b)

3. In Regret, We _____ (6a; cf. James 4:1-3)

4. In Fear, We _____ (6b)

II. Rest In God Who Repairs The Damage Of Sin (7-16)

A. _____ Relationships Broken By Sin (7-9)

B. Give Your _____ To God To Solve (10-12)

C. God's _____ Are Better Than Ours Because He Is The All-Knowing God (13-16)

Conclusion:

1. Patience Is An Act Of Faith

2. Salvation Makes Us Children Of Promise (Gal 4:21-31)

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1. In Frustration, We Blameshift (5)

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4. In Fear, We Flee (6b)

II. Rest In God Who Repairs The Damage Of Sin (7-16)

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¹Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ²And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

⁷The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." ⁹The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." ¹¹And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction.

¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

¹³So 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." ¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

I. Impatience With God Is No Excuse For An Immoral Solution (Genesis 16:1-6)

A. The Dilemma Of Impatience With God (1-2)

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

- Abraham is 86 at this point and childless
- To whom would God's promise come through?
- Sarai was barren!
 - To be childless, in that culture, was shameful and embarrassing
 - She even blames God: "the Lord has prevented me from bearing children"
- Sarah takes to scheming and commanding
 - She usurps God and her husband at the same time
 - Abram didn't stand up to her
 - Reflective of Adam not

- Why **WAIT?**
 - God is control of timing
 - To be anxious for a good thing is a lack of faith
 - Ie/ Marriage, Dating

Isaiah 28:16 Whoever believes will not be in haste.

Romans 10:11 Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.

- Jerry Bridges defines "impatience" as: "a strong sense of annoyance at the (usually) unintentional faults and failures of others. This impatience is often expressed verbally in a way that tends to humiliate the person (or persons) who is the object of the impatience." (*Respectable Sins*, Navpress, 2007, p. 116)
- Les Carter: "Impatience is a feeling of restlessness that stems from a desire for relief or change. It is an intolerance of something that is hindering a personal goal or preference. It implies an irritable and testy nature. It is the opposite of calm and composure." (*Mind Over Emotions*, Baker Book House, 1985, p. 84)

3 Reasons We Struggle With Impatience:

1. The Problem Of Pride – The Solution Of Humility

- At Corinth, they had "love feasts" (1 Cor 11:20-22)

1 Corinthians 11:20-22 20 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

- These proud Corinthians went to the potluck eating their food before others. The rich brought their food and ate it up before the poorer people got there.
- If you're going to be a selfish pig, gorge at home, but don't come to the Lord's house and act selfishly
- Love does not seek its own

Ecclesiastes 7:8 Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

- Margaret Thatcher: "I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end." (Observer, April 4, 1989)
- Les Carter: "When impatience is a problem, too often there is a deeper problem of **self-absorption**.... 'Do things my way!' There is an intolerance for differing styles or plans." (*Mind Over Emotions*, p. 86)

2. The Problem Of Control – The Solution Of Faith

Genesis 16:1-2 ¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

- Carter: "Many times, impatience springs from a **desire to control**.... Impatience erupts when they lose their grip on the controls." (p. 87)
- Carter: "Impatient people are often prisoners of an **imperative style of thinking**. That is, they have very strong notions regarding what should or should not be done." (p. 88)
- An impatient person demands control
- Control over the clock
- Control over the reigns
- An impatient person is like a sailor who mutinies against the captain of a ship
- Ie/ You work in a group pooling for creativity among
- Les Carter: "People who are prone to impatience are usually unrealistic in what they desire from people or events. They have high standards – which is fine – but their standards set them up for disappointments. Failing to make allowances for the imperfections of the world, impatient people add 'must' to their list of requirements." (*Mind Over Emotions*, p. 86)

3. The Problem Of A Quick Temper – The Solution Of Measured Anger

Ecclesiastes 7:9 Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.

- Carter: "Impatience is a close cousin to anger. It is virtually impossible for a person to be impatient without being angry to some degree.... Often people who have persistent struggles with impatience find that they do not have a good style of assertive anger. Failing to establish a pattern of assertiveness, they fall prey to aggressive anger. They may cover up their aggressiveness by calling it frustration or irritation, but whatever they call it, it is anger." (pp. 87-88)
- **Who is Hagar?**
 - Sarah's servant
 - From Egypt (Abram & Sarai were in Egypt in Gen 12:16)
 - Name means "flight," "flee," "fugitive"
 - Mother of Ishmael (through Abraham)
 - Referred to in Gal 4:21-31 as a contrast to being free from sin as a child of Promise, like Isaac
- "In spite of the human logic that supports the Arab claim, God's plan has not changed. Palestine was given to Israel and will be theirs entirely some day as fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham. We must remember the promise was given while Abram was still childless. According to all standards of Jewish and Oriental inheritance, Ishmael, the

firstborn, would become the heir of Abram's wealth and the descendant of a promised line. But God's plan of a chosen nation did not include the son of Hagar the Egyptian." *Gangel, Kenneth; Bramer, Stephen J. (2003-04-01). Holman Old Testament Commentary - Genesis: 1 (p. 148). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.*

B. The Disturbance Of Faithless Alternatives (3-4)

- Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum: "This offer was in keeping with the *Nuzi Tablets* and with the *Code of Hammurabi* in that if a wife proved to be barren, she was obligated to provide to her husband a *handmaid* through whom he could have children so that his seed does not die out. Therefore, what Sarai proposed was in keeping with the laws of that day. However, for Sarai it was a lapse of faith; although God had not specifically said that she was going to be the mother, it should have been an assumed fact since she was Abram's only wife. Nevertheless, by law, it was her prerogative to do this." (*Genesis Commentary: Ariel Bible Commentary*,
- While legal in a polygamous culture, it was faithless
- While suggested by Sarai, it was still immoral
- But out of convenience, we justify our faithless and immoral alternatives

C. The Damage Of Individual Insurrection (5-6)

1. In Frustration, We Blameshift (5)

^{5a} *And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you!"*

- Has your spouse ever blamed you and you wonder "What did I ever do?"
- Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the devil

2. In Anger, We Divide (5b)

^{5b} *I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!"*

- Here is the quick-temper of Sarah moving quickly from coming up with the plan to impregnate Hagar to hating Hagar
- Contempt!

3. In Regret, We Avenge (6a)

^{6a} *But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.*

- Abraham is trying to calm his wife down but doesn't help her with his advice
- He had the opportunity to sanctify her but gives up and tells her to do what she wants, not what God wants
- Ie/ Child raising – calm kid down, not instruct them towards righteousness; we give in and buy them the Toy at Toys'R'Us just so they'd calm down

- Sarai treats Hagar cruelly

James 4:1-3 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions¹ are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

4. **In Fear, We Flee (6b)**

^{6b} and she fled from her.

- The first 3 examples were Sarai's struggles.
- Hagar would then respond the way many of us would respond: Run like the wind (just like her name: flee, flight)
- How many of us prefer to run away from a problem than to deal with it?

II. **Rest In God Who Repairs The Damage Of Sin (7-16)**

A. **Reconcile Relationships Broken By Sin (7-9)**

⁷ The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai."⁹ The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her."

- The "angel of the Lord" is often identified as the preincarnate Son of God
 - Why the term "Angel?"
 - Jesus came as an angel to be the "Messenger" of hope, goodness, comfort and miracles. His "Angel of the Lord" manifestations were representative of God working in the midst of man.

- Christophany = an appearance (*phaneo*) of Christ

- The Angel is identified as Yahweh To Moses

Exodus 3:1-2, 6 ¹Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.... ⁶He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

- Angel of Lord in flames of bush and claims "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob (6a), Moses hid His face because he was afraid to look at God (6b)
- To Abraham On Mount Moriah

Genesis 22:12 ¹²He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

- Abr. ready to sacrifice Isaac - Angel of the Lord appears - stop - "I know you fear God, because you have not withheld from me you son, your only son" - Angel of Lord and God are identical
- To Manoah At Samson's Announcement

Judges 13:17,22 ¹⁷Then Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, "What is your name, so that we may honor you when your words come true?" ... ²²And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, for we have seen God."

- Manoah asked angel's name - "Wonderful" (cf. Isa 9:6, meaning surpassing, ineffable, beyond human comprehension)
- v.22 - Manoah feared death because he realized he just saw God

B. Give Your Affliction To God To Solve (10-12)

¹⁰ The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude."¹¹ And the angel of the Lord said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. ¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

- Angel of Lord promised multiple descendants too numerous to count to Sarah (Gen 16:10) – omniscient
- The same promise is made to Abraham (22:17) - had to be omniscient and omnipotent to fulfill this promise - no ordinary angel could make this promise
- Ishmael – wild like a donkey, violent and powerful tendencies
 - These are attributes that are not descriptive of all of Ishmael's descendants, though there is probably some connection in the mind of Moses as he teaches Israel about the origin of the enemy tribes
- This is the origin of the Arab / Israeli conflict
 - The First Born Son vs. the Son of Promise

C. God's Solutions Are Better Than Ours Because He Is The All-Knowing God (13-16)

¹³ 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."¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

- El Roi = the mighty God who sees
- *El* = mighty, strong
- *El* is used 250
- God sees all that we need

Conclusion:

1. Patience Is An Act Of Faith

How Does God Help Me Become More Patient?

a. God Teaches Us Patience By Intentionally Slowing Us Down (Ps 23:2)

Psalm 23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

- God will make us lie down, even when we don't plan on it.
- Ie/ illness, layoff, etc.
- Sheep follow the shepherd. They don't know where the best place to go find the greenest pastures or the still waters (clumsy sheep with full wool coats feared rushing water that could drown them easily).
- We don't know when we need to rest or to take a break.

b. We Learn Patience Through The School Of Hard Knocks (James 1:2-4; Rom 5:3-4)

James 1:2-4 ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces **patience**. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

- Patience – endurance, perseverance
 - God will teach us to not make impulsive decisions
 - Growth is a long process
 - Don't pray for patience – God will answer with trials
- Faith tested brings a steadfast life
 - Ie/ football – fumble and tripping drill
- Perfect & complete
 - Outfitted ship

Romans 5:3-4 ³ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 ¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Hebrews 5:8-9 ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

- "Patience is waiting. Not passively waiting. That is laziness. But to keep going when the going is hard and slow - that is patience." (Anonymous)

c. Patience Is Supplied By The Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **patience**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control;

- The fruit of the Spirit are the manifestations of Christlikeness bestowed by the Holy Spirit

d. Patience Is Modeled By Christ (1 Tim 1:16)

1 Timothy 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

- Even when you factor in Jesus' scathing rebuke of the Pharisees (Mt 23) and His turning over the tables of the money-changing thieves in the Temple, Christ is the perfect model of patience.
- Patience doesn't mean that you never get angry.
- It means that you get angry at the right time.

2. Salvation Makes Us Children Of Promise (Gal 4:21-31)

Galatians 4:21-31 ²¹Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than of the one who has a husband." ²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." ³¹So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.