

January 17/Day 17

Genesis 16

Verses 1-6

- What are we reminded about Sarai in this passage?
- While it seems strange to us, in those days it was rather common for a servant to have a baby for a barren wife and the wife would raise the child as her own. If you remember, God had promised Abram his heir would come from his own body. God didn't mention Sarai's body, so she thinks she should help God out.
- Where had Hagar come from? Do you remember the circumstances of them going there?
- How did Hagar feel about Sarai after she conceived?
- After the hurt feelings between the women (duh!), whom did Sarai blame? How did he respond?
- What did Hagar do after Sarai treated her harshly?

Verses 7-10

- Yesterday we saw Melchizedek, who is a type of Christ, or a picture of Christ to come. Adam and Abel and other men and symbols are types of Christ as well. We'll get to this later. Today we see the angel of the LORD. Remember, an angel is a messenger, but this specific angel, the angel of the LORD, is believed to be Jesus Himself, a pre-incarnate (this just means before he had an earthly body) Christ. Remember this as you see the angel of the LORD is introduced in other Scriptures.
- With this in mind, who found Hagar by the spring in the wilderness?
- If He is God, does He already know about her circumstances? Why do you think he asks her these questions?
- Does God ever cause you to think about what you're doing and change your path?
- What instruction does He give Hagar? Would this have been easy for her? How would you feel?
- What promise did the angel of the LORD make? Who would He have to be in order to keep this promise? Where have we seen a promise like this before?

Verse 11

- Ishmael is the father of the Arab race.
- Ishmael means "God listens". Is this what the passage says?

Verse 12

- What kind of man will Ishmael be?
- How will he get along with others?
- Remember, living to the east is indicative of being at odds.

Verses 13-14

- We see another name for God here, el roi, “God who sees”!
- Aren’t you glad He sees us in our affliction? Aren’t you glad He is aware of how others treat us?
- From the passage, does it seem like Hagar recognized the angel of the LORD as God?
- Hagar was an Egyptian, how would she have known about God?

Verses 15-16

- Would Hagar, a slave, have had much, if any, say in naming the child? Yet the baby’s given name echoes the words from the angel of the LORD.
- How old is Abram now? Do you remember how old he was when God promised descendants? He was 75. It had been a decade; no wonder Sarai began to think there may be another way.

Genesis 17

Verse 1

- How old is Abram now? How long has it been since God promised descendants?
- How old does this make Ishmael now?
- How did God speak to Abram this time?
- Another name for God is mentioned here, el Shaddai. While translated God Almighty, it means “The All-sufficient One”. The picture is provision, providence, nourishment, and satisfaction.
- God tells Abram to walk before Him and be blameless. Is God expecting Abram to be perfect or is He saying when Abram walks before God, he WILL be blameless?

Verse 2

- God has already MADE (cut) the covenant with Abram, now He is preparing to establish His covenant.
- Has God ever given you a promise, yet years later you’re still waiting on the fulfillment of such promise? Are you tempted, like Sarai, to try to help Him out?

Verse 3

- What was the purpose of Abram falling on his face? Have we seen him worship before? In what way?
- Obedience is also a form of worship.

Verse 4

- Whose covenant is it?

Verse 5

- God changes Abram's name to Abraham. Remember, Abram means "exalted father" and Abraham means "father of multitudes".
- The "-ah" He added corresponds to the Hebrew letter 'heh' in YHWH, or Yahweh. It is a picture of the breath of life, a kind of God-breath into Abraham.

Verses 6-8

- Abram already had a son, yet now God tells him He will make him exceedingly fruitful.
- Nations and kings (as well as kingdoms) will come from Abraham.
- How long will this covenant be in effect?
- Besides a multitude of descendants, what is also promised within this covenant? How much of it? For how long?

Verses 8-14

- What is the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham? It's not the covenant, just the sign. To "make" a covenant means to "cut" a covenant. Is cutting involved in circumcision? Have you ever seen anyone make a cut on their hand and touch hands with the cut on another person's hand as a blood covenant? Who else had His hands pierced which provided for us a blood covenant?
- Observe Isaiah 49:16, (a prophecy of Jesus), "Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands."
- On what day after birth is a circumcision to take place? Medically, Vitamin K and prothrombin levels are at their peak for clotting. Traditionally, the baby has lived a full week which means he has experienced a Sabbath. The Jewish faith allows one to enter into covenant after he has experienced the holiness of one Sabbath.
- The act of circumcision is called a "bris", which means "covenant".
- How serious was the sign of the covenant according to this passage?

Verses 15-22

- God changes Sarai's name to Sarah by adding the same "-ah". Remember what it means?
- Sarai and Sarah both mean "princess".
- Is Sarah included in the covenant between God and Abraham?
- How old was Abraham now? And Sarah? Not only was she barren, but she was past the child-birthing age. It would be impossible for her to conceive.
- How did Abraham feel about Ishmael? He was his firstborn. How would you feel?
- What would be the name of Abraham's son by Sarah, his wife?
- Which son would be the son of the covenant? How long would the covenant hold?
- Did God make a provision for Ishmael in His grace?
- What was God's time frame for the birth of Isaac?
- What did God do when He was finished talking to Abraham?

Verses 23-27

- Did Abraham obey God about circumcising every male? When did he do it?
- How old was Abraham now? How old was Isaac?

Genesis 18

Verses 1-8

- How many men were standing opposite Abraham at his tent door? Verse 1 says the LORD appeared to him.
- The ancients were quite hospitable to travelers. It was customary to receive strangers into their tents for refreshment from desert travels. It was actually shameful to refuse.

Verses 9-15

- How did the three men know Sarah's name?
- How did she overhear what they were saying?
- Sarah laughed. Do you remember that Abraham laughed before as well?
- Is anything too difficult for the LORD? He created everything that has been created. He transcends time. Is anything too difficult?

Verses 16-21

- What rhetorical question does the LORD voice in verse 17? Observe Amos 3:7, "Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan **to** his servants the **prophets**."
- What does the first phrase in verse 19 say? Observe John 15:16, (Jesus is speaking) "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you."
- What will Abraham cause his household to do? What two specific characteristics are listed?
- What was going on in Sodom and Gomorrah? Do you remember which of Abraham's relatives was living there?
- Notice the cities cried out to God about the exceedingly grave sin.

Verses 22-33

- Where did the two men go when they left Abraham standing before the LORD?
- What were the questions Abraham asked of the LORD in regard to the wickedness of Sodom and Gomorrah?
- Do the righteous (right with God) suffer along with the wicked? Is God just?

To be continued... See you tomorrow.