

Steve Greenberg's Handout

Week 13, April 22, 2026 Genesis 16 Carnal Plan, Angel of the Lord

First Scene, v1-3

Gen 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant (**Lit: attendant, female, single and she attended to Sarai needs and was with her a lot of time, now 10 years**) whose name was Hagar (**means flight**).

Sarai makes a plan to resolve the problem of her barrenness by having her maidservant, Hagar, bear a child on her behalf.

It is believed that Abram received Hagar during his backslidden time in Egypt when he did not trust God during a famine.

Gen 12:16 He (**Egyptians King Pharaoh**) treated Abram well for her sake. He (**Pharaoh gave Abram**) had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

Gen 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained (**shut my womb, prevented**) me from bearing children (**Yes, but it was according to Gods timing**). Please, go in to my maid (**have sexual relations, so that, she may bear you a child**); perhaps I shall obtain (**Lit: build**) children by her." And Abram heeded (**listened and agreed with**) the voice of Sarai (**his wife**).

Abram listened to the voice of Sarai without filtering through Gods Word and taking it to the Lord in prayer. A godly Christian wife has a lot of wisdom, husbands need to listen.

It was the sin of unbelief, not trusting God and His promise

It was against God's plan for marriage: the two shall become one

It was not of faith? But without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6)

The works of the flesh profits nothing. (Jhn 6:63, 15:1-4 without Me you can do nothing)

Rachel trying to give Jacob her husband a child uses her maid servant

Gen 30:3 - So she(**Rachel**) said (**to Jacob**), "Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, and she will bear a child on my knees, that I also may have children by her." (**This ritual symbolized that the wife was providing the child for her husband through a surrogate mother**) The biblical concept of "providing children" for a family through someone else is most prominent in two specific ancient practices: concubinage /surrogacy for a living barren wife and Levirate marriage for a deceased husband (**Deut 25:5-6**). **Abram undoubtedly had informed Sarai of God's promise to him, and Sarai probably thought that this was necessary in order to bring about God's plan for them.**

Abraham's faith

Rom 4:19 And (**Abraham**) not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

Rom 4:20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

Rom 4:21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised, He was also able to perform.

Rom 4:22 And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Rom 4:23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him,

Rom 4:24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,

Rom 4:25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

God loves to do the miraculous

Heb 11:12 Therefore from one man, and him (**Abraham**), as good as dead, were born as many (**descendants**) as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Think of the things that are culturally expectable or legal but not right or good for believers.

Remember bad company corrupts good morals (1Cor 15:33) even with maid servants?

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Quote from Pastor Chuck Smith from C3009 series Gen 16

They find themselves in the position of seeking now through natural means to accomplish the purposes of God. Let me say that is always a mistake. How many times we have sought by natural devices to accomplish the purposes of God. And with the same kind of results we end up making a total mess out of things.

Many times I have put myself in the position of God's little helper. I give Him opportunity to work. I give Him a time deadline. "Lord, if you don't do it in this length of time, then I'm going to be forced to do something myself." Here we find Sarah saying, "Look, Abraham, let's give up. It's not going to happen." "Let's help God, you know, He needs our help now." Have you ever been told that God needs your help?

Gen 16:3 Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid (**led attendant**), the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram, to be his (**second**) wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan (**land of promise**).

The Old Testament Scriptures speaks of men having multiple wives, polygamy, these relationships are extremely difficult and are never encouraged in the Bible (Gen 2:24; Deut. 17:17).

Second Scene v4-6

Gen 16:4 So he(**Abram**) went in to (**had marriage relations with**) Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress (**Sarai**) became despised (**cf. Gen 12:3**) in her eyes (**probably regarded Sarai as insignificant because of her inability to have a child, and it was not Abram's issue**).

I believe it was painful for Sarai to give her husband to her maidservant but by cultural standards she was a cursed for not having children and this plan could give her a child

Hagar immediately began to think of herself as better as and more important than Sarai.
Pro 30:21 For three things the earth is perturbed, Yes, for four it cannot bear up:
Pro 30:23 A hateful woman when she is married, And a maidservant who succeeds (displaces, supplants) her mistress.

Gen 16:5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "My wrong (**is not her wrong doing and is not my fault, but may it**) be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace (**marriage relations, Lit: bosom**); and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised (**contemptible**) in her(**Hagar**) eyes. The LORD, judge (**who has done right**) between you and me (**both had the sin of unbelief, not trusting God and being patient, but God spoke to Abram**)."

Gen 16:6 So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand (**under your authority & power**); do to her, as you please (**think best**)." And when Sarai dealt harshly (**possibly: exhausting labor, verbal torment & possible a beating but does not say**) her, she fled (**ran away**) from her presence.

1Pet 3:7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

Third Scene v7-14

Gen 16:7 Now the Angel of the LORD found her (**Hagar**) by (**or near**) a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to (**on a road to Egypt, by way of**) Shur.

This is the first occurrence of "Angel of the LORD" (**YHWH**) in Scripture. The Hebrew word for "angel" means "messenger" (an angel of God is a special messenger from God who speaks for and is closely identified with Him) and context determines whether the messenger is an angel, a human or God. The same is true for Greek, and the word "angel" is an English form (transliteration) of the Gr aggelos. Many Bible scholars believe that this Angel may be a theophany, that is, a physical manifestation of God, in which case the word Angel is capitalized. The Angel of the LORD may, based on context, be the pre-incarnate Christ, the Son of God.

Quote from David Guzik on Blue Letter Bible, Gen 16

i. Later in the text, it shows that Hagar understood that this physically-present Person was **God Himself**. When God Himself is physically present, we understand that it is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.

ii. We understand this because of God the Father it says: **No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him (John 1:18)**, and no man has ever seen God in the Person of the Father (**1 Timothy 6:16**). Therefore, if God physically appeared and spoke as one Person to another in the Old Testament, we understand this as an appearance of the eternal Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, before His incarnation in Bethlehem.

- The **Angel of the LORD** would later appear to Abraham (**Genesis 22**).
- The **Angel of the LORD** would later appear to Moses (**Exodus 3**).
- The **Angel of the LORD** would later appear to Balaam (**Numbers 22**).
- The **Angel of the LORD** would later appear to Israel collectively (**Judges 2**).
- The **Angel of the LORD** would later appear to Gideon (**Judges 6**).
- The **Angel of the LORD** would later appear to Samson's parents (**Judges 13**).
- The **Angel of the LORD** would later appear to David (**2 Samuel 24**).
- The **Angel of the LORD** would later appear to Elijah (**1 Kings 19**).

- iii. *This is the first appearance of* the **Angel of the LORD** in the Bible. He didn't first appear to Noah or Enoch or Abram. The **Angel of the LORD** first appeared to a single mother-to-be, who had a pride problem and was mistreated by the woman who put her into the whole mess.
- iv. All this makes us amazed at God's love for the unlikely, and we should never forget that He often delights in doing this.

The Angel of the Lord told her to repent. If she changed her direction, there was an inherent promise — obey Me and I will protect you. Jesus didn't exactly tell Hagar to go back to an abusive household; He made an implied promise of protection.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

1Pet 5:6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Gen 16:8 And He (**Angel of the LORD**) said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid (**notice: He knew her name**), where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing (**running away**) from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

Gen 16:9 The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself (**change your attitude, humbly submit from cf. 16:6**) under her hand (**Sarai's authority**)."

Tit 2:9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back ...

Psa 147:6 The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.

Mat 23:12 "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Gen 16:10 Then the Angel of the LORD said to her(**Hagar**), "I will multiply your descendants (**your seed**) exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude (**too many to count**)."

Gen 17:20 "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

As the promise was fulfilled, Ishmael became the ancestor of the Arab people, just as his half-brother Isaac would become the ancestor of the Jewish people. They are brothers and share a common father in Abraham.

Gen 16:11 And the Angel of the LORD said (**more**) to her(**Hagar**): "Behold, you are with child (**pregnant**), And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael (**Literally means: God hears**), Because the LORD has heard (**paid attention to**) your affliction (**painful groans and cries of distress**).

Will conceived, cf. Gen 3:16; 21:2; 25:21; Ex 2:2; 1 Sam 1:20; Luke 1:31, 36

Luk 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

Luk 1:31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name **JESUS**.

Luk 1:32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

Luk 1:33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Luk 1:34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

Luk 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Luk 1:36 "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her, who was called barren.

Gen 16:12 He(**Ishmael**) shall be a wild man (**untamed and strong as a wild donkey**); His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell (**independently and differently**) in the presence of all his brethren (**relatives**)."

Gen 16:13 Then she(**Hagar**) called (**gave a name**) the name of the LORD who spoke to her, **You-Are-the-“God”-Who-Sees**; for she(**Hagar**) said, "Have I also, here (**in the wilderness**) seen Him, who sees me (**I am still alive, after seeing the One, who sees me**)?"

(Heb El roi; God never sleeps, He sees, He is aware, He is the great Omnipresent God.(16:13) Or seen the back of Him who sees me, which would suggest that at some point in their conversation Hagar requested to see the divine Angel (see note v 7) and, as in Moses' encounter with God (Ex 33:18-23), was granted the privilege of seeing His back. The wording of the Hebrew is not clear enough to further narrow the possibilities).

Gen 16:14 Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi (**Literally means: Well of the One Who Lives and Sees Me**); observe, it is (**located**) between Kadesh and Bered. (**Further proof of the antiquity of the original names, since the place had to be identified to the reader in the time of Moses**).

Fourth Scene v15-16

Gen 16:15 So Hagar bore (**gave birth to**) Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael (**meaning God hears, by naming his son, Abram publicly acknowledges him as his son and heir**).

Ishmael was the first person whom God named before his birth (Gen 16:11). Others were: Isaac (Gen 17:19); Josiah (1 Kin 13:2); Solomon (1 Chr 22:9); Jesus (Matt 1:21); and John the Baptist (Luke 1:13).

Abram honored the name that was given by the Angel of the Lord--God hears.

Gal 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman (**Hagar, work of the flesh**), the other by a freewoman.

Gal 4:23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

Gal 4:24 which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar--

Gal 4:25 for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children--

Gal 4:26 but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Gal 4:27 For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband."

Gal 4:28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

Gal 4:30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

Gal 4:31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Gen 16:16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar (**gave birth**) bore Ishmael (**his son**) to Abram.

End:

Prayer:

May you experience now the touch of God upon your life in a very special way this week. You that are facing some heavy problems, some decisions that are very important, may God grant you His wisdom. And may you experience that work of God's Spirit, the guiding of your life through this difficult time. You that have been discouraged, may you find the strength of the Lord ministering to you, lifting you up and encouraging you in the things of His Spirit. And may the love of Christ dwell in your hearts richly that your life might be a witness to this poor sick world that there is one who loves and there is one who cares. And may God grant you the opportunity of sharing His love and your faith with them. In Jesus' name.

Mat 28:20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Psa 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.

Psa 37:4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psa 37:5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Mat 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Charts

<u>First Mention</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Description</u>
Angel of the LORD	Gen 16:7	Angel (Messenger) of the LORD appears to a human.
El Roi (God Who Sees)	Gen 16:13	First specific name for God. The God Who Sees Me".
Human gives God a name	Gen 16:13	A human (Hagar) gives a name to the God, El Roi.
Name Given before birth	Gen 16:11	God gives child a name (Ishmael) before he was born.

Extra Notes:

God hears the voice of the Ishmael as he and his mom departs

Gen 21:9 And Sarah saw the son (Ishmael) of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

Gen 21:11 And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son.

Gen 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

Gen 21:13 "Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed."

Gen 21:14 So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting it on her shoulder, he gave it and the boy (Ishmael) to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba.

Gen 21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad (Ishmael). Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.

Gen 21:18 "Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

Gen 21:19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.

Gen 21:20 So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

Gen 21:21 He dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Gen 25:17 These were the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.

Gen 25:18 (They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria.) He died in the presence of all his brethren.