

**Series "In The Beginning...God"**  
**"Shortcut In Faith"**  
**Genesis 16:1-16**  
**Study-37**

**Abram in Genesis 15 exhibits faith, (Believed in The Lord) Genesis 16 Abram is not guided by faith but by circumstances and his wife, rather than by God and His Word. Hebrews 6:12**

**(Genesis – Book of Beginnings) Our passage records the 1<sup>st</sup> Domestic Strife In Scripture. Abram, Sarai, and Hagar.**

**The Bible contains over 3,000 promises that we can draw from**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "God Sometimes Seems To Be Slow In Fulfilling His Promises And Can Lead To Our Plans, That Always Result In Trouble"

- 1. Verses 1-6 Shortcut In Faith**
- 2. Verses 7-12 God's Intervention**
- 3. Verses 13-16 Response To God**

**1. Verses 1-6 The Shortcut In Faith:**

**Genesis 16:1 Now Context - Genesis 12:1-3** God made a covenant with Abram, then **Genesis 15** The Covenant Ceremony is Recorded indicating the Unconditional Nature of The Covenant. **Genesis 15:18**

**Genesis 15:1-6** God gave assurance to Abram that through his seed God would produce a nation like the numbers of stars of the heavens.

**Genesis 15:7-21** God gave assurance to Abram, that God had given the land to Israel.

**Sarai's Lapse Of Faith: Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children, (Sarai is 75, Abram is 85) Context -** passing of a few months since God promised descendants to Abram **Genesis 15:4**

a total of 10 years since God promised Abram, now he is 85 years old.

**Hebrews 11:11-12**

**God was going to provide Abram with a son, but God did not give the details as to when. Hebrews 11:12**

**KJV Isaiah 28:16 "He that believeth shall not make haste" Whenever we stop trusting God, we start to "make haste"**

**True Evidence Of A Biblical Faith:**

- (1) We are willing to wait.
- (2) We are concerned only for the glory of God.
- (3) We are obeying God's Word.
- (4) We have God's joy and peace within.

Sarai (Lapse of Faith) believes that God was too late! That He did not do what He said.

**Hagar** Hebrew name, not an Egyptian **Hagar** – "*flight*" possibly *flight from Egypt?*

**Genesis 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children.** God had promised Abram descendants, "Sarai the mother" Sarai is blaming God for not having children. **Romans 8:7**

**Sarai should have said, "Nature has failed me, but God is my resource!"**

**God uses barrenness to drive us to God for fruitfulness! John 15:5**

**Impatience Rooted In A Lack Of Faith: Please go in to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her."** This was a culturally accepted practice.

**Sin Against Hagar:** Hagar had no say in it. She was used as an object to a means.

**Genesis 25:6** (Never right) Solomon: 700 wives and 300 concubines  
**(1 Kings 11:3)**

**"Faith is not believing in spite of evidence but obeying in spite of consequence."**

**And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. Genesis 3:17** with Adam listening to Eve.

**Genesis 16:3 After Abram had lived 10 years in the land of Canaan,**

**Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram, as his wife. Genesis 2:24** Polygamy was never approved by God.

**Genesis 16:4 He went in to Hagar, and she conceived;** The sad thing is, it worked, **Galatians 4:23 Hagar – the Law, Sarai - Grace**  
**(NLT) Genesis 16:4 But when Hagar knew she was pregnant, she began to treat her mistress, Sarai, with contempt.**

**The Harmony & Peace Of Abram's Home Was Gone: (Sarai) was despised in her sight.** (Peace would not return for 16-17 years)

## **Price To Be Paid When We Walk In The Flesh: Galatians 6:7-8**

**Genesis 16:5 Sarai's Reaction To The Consequences Of Her Sin: And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. "My wrong belongs to you as well" It was Sarah's idea and now it is falling back on Abram.**

### **Genesis 3:11-13 Sarai Resorts To Blame Shifting:**

**Abram Receives A Tongue Lashing: May the LORD judge between you and me." Now God is brought into the picture.**

**Genesis 16:6 do to her what is good in your sight." This is the passing of the buck.**

**(Abram The Passive Husband) Abram gives the leadership of the home to his wife:**

**Sarai Untamed Temper: So Sarai treated her harshly, "dealt hardly with her" ("Sarai" Godly Wife held up in NT 1 Peter 3:6)**

**and she fled from her presence. Hagar runs from her situation:**

### **2. Verses 7-12 God's Intervention:**

**Genesis 16:7 Providence Of God: angel of the LORD (Verse 13 - God) This is the 1st appearance of The Angel of The Lord in OT.**

**found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. God found her in the wilderness. (East towards Egypt) Psalm 139:7-10**

**Genesis 16:8 He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, The angel called her "Sarai's maid" which suggests that God did not accept her marriage to Abraham.**

**And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."**

**Genesis 16:9 "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority." means to arrange in rank or proper order.**

**Genesis 16:10 Angel's Promise To Hagar, The Result Of Submission. Ishmael Would Father The Arab People Too Many To Count: Genesis 12:3**

**Genesis 16:11 Ishmael – "God hears" The Arab nations**

### **Genesis 16:12**

**1. "And he will be a wild donkey of a man, "wild-ass man" Free-spirited, (Bedouin) It spoke of the wilderness that he would dwell in, and of his fighting**

nature. Would choose Islam, to follow Mohammed; are great opponents of Israel, against the God of Israel.

**2. His hand will be against everyone,** This is clearly seen in the attitude and actions of the Arabs towards Israel.

**3. And everyone's hand will be against him;** meet world resistance.

### **3. Verses 13-16 Response To God:**

**Genesis 16:13** Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, Hagar's response was one of faith.

**"You are a God who sees"** how true this is! He sees. **Verse 11 - He hears.**

**remained alive here after seeing Him?"** Hagar knew she had an encounter with the true and living God!

**Genesis 16:14** the well was called **Beer-lahai-roi**; *"The well of One who lives and sees me" "the well of the living One who sees me"*

**Genesis 16:15 Ishmael.** Hagar told Abram and Sarai about her encounter with God

**Genesis 16:16** God is not in a hurry!

### **Application:**

- 1.** Satan Wants Us To Think That Our "Detours Of Disobedience" Must Become The Permanent Road For The Rest Of Our Lives, But This Is Not True. Accept God's Providence. Anticipate God's Promises.
- 2.** Like Abram And Sarai, We Can Confess Our Sins, Accept God's Cleansing (1 John 1:9), And Then Learn To Live With Our Mistakes. Adopt God's Priorities.
- 3.** There Will Be Pain And Regret, But God's Grace Will Overcome In The End; Living Each Day For God And His Glory.