

HAGAR AND ISHMAEL

GENESIS 16 | JULIA DAVIS | JANUARY 17, 2021

Genesis 12:2-3

² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 16:1-3

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not been able to bear children for him. But she had an Egyptian servant named Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, "The Lord has prevented me from having children. Go and sleep with my servant. Perhaps I can have children through her." And Abram agreed with Sarai's proposal. ³ So Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian servant and gave her to Abram as a wife. (This happened ten years after Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.)

There is something that happens to us when we put all of our focus on the promises of the Lord — we lose sight of the Lord Himself.

The promises of God are not for you to figure out. The promises of God are His to work out.

When we put all of our focus on the promises of God, we lose sight of the people around us.

Do not become so focused on yourself and what is "yours" that everyone else around you become expendable.

Genesis 16:7-10

The angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. ⁸ The angel said to her, "Hagar, Sarai's servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress, Sarai," she replied. ⁹ The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority." ¹⁰ Then he added, "I will give you more descendants than you can count."

Genesis 16:11-12

¹¹ And the angel also said, "You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means 'God hears'), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. ¹² This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives."

Genesis 16:13-15

Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, "You are the God who sees me."^[a] She also said, "Have I truly seen the One who sees me?" ¹⁴ So that well was named Beer-lahai-roi (which means "well of the Living One who sees me"). It can still be found between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael.

The Lord can meet you in the midst of all your damage.

The God who makes promises is the God who will see those promises through.

How am I doing?

Am I leaving a wake of damage behind me?

Am I caring more about myself and what is mine than the people around me?

Am I reflecting and representing the Lord to the people around me?