

Study Guide for August 9th, 2009. Life of Abraham: The Wait. Genesis 16:1-16.

Introduction: When have you become impatient waiting for God to fulfill a desire?
What did you do? What was the outcome? What lessons did you learn?

I. A Human Solution: (Gen. 16:1-6)

- A. How is Sari identified? What does Sari propose? Why?
- B. What is Abram's response? (Contrast this with Isaac's action in Gen. 25:21)
- C. How is Hagar identified? What happens to her? How does she respond?
- D. What do the words and actions of Sari and Abram (vs. 5-6) reveal about each?
- E. What might be God's perspective on these events? (Compare with Gen. 3:6-7)
- F. Read Ps. 27:14; 40:1 & 130:5-6. What is God presently calling you to wait for?

II. A Divine Encounter: (Gen. 16:7-16)

- A. Who finds Hagar? Near what? Where was she going? (See Gen. 25:18)
- B. How does the angel address Hagar? What does he ask her?
- C. What is Hagar's initial response? How would you evaluate it?
- D. What does the angel tell Hagar to do? Why? What will this accomplish?
- E. "A servant advances not by discarding social boundaries, but by honoring them."
(Bruce Waltke, Genesis, pg. 254). Do you agree or disagree? Is it fair and just?
- F. What promise does the angel make? (vs. 10) How was it fulfilled? (Gen 25:13-16)
- G. What instruction does the angel give? (vs. 11) What does this reveal about God?
- H. What prediction does the angel make? (vs. 12) How was it fulfilled? (Gen. 25:18)
- I. What does the image of a wild donkey imply? (See Job 39:5-12)
- J. How does Hagar respond? What is the significance of the place she names?
- K. How does Hagar's story foreshadow Israel's story? (See Ex. 14:3, 19 & 32:34)

Conclusion: In Is. 65:1 God says, "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me." Reflect on God's mercy to Hagar and to you.