



*GEN #34

03/21/10

THE COMPROMISED FAITH OF ABRAM

GENESIS 16:1-16

Compromise: a settlement of a dispute in which two or more sides agree to accept less than they originally wanted.

Something that somebody accepts because what was wanted is unattainable.

To undermine or devalue somebody or something by making concessions.

• Don't compromise your integrity by telling half-truths.

Worldly Compromise and Scheming resulted in humiliation for Sarai herself, misery to Abram and oppression to Hagar.

1. **Waiting** (Gen. 16:1a) “The Problem”

*Genesis 16 1...Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children.

2. **Scheming** (Gen. 16:1b-4a) “The Plan”

And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

² So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

***Marriage** ³ Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt... ten years... in the land of Canaan. ⁴ So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.

3. **Fighting** (Gen. 16:4b-6)....And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, “My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes The LORD judge between you and me.” *Romans 14:23...Not of faith= SIN

***Mistreatment** ⁶ So Abram said to Sarai, “Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please.” And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

4. **Submitting** (Gen. 16:7-16) Hagar & Abram & Sarai had to submit to God!

***Meeting with the Lord** ⁷ Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And He said, “Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?”

She said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.”

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

The Angel of the Lord found the maidservant in the desert at a spring ... beside the road to Shur (cf. 25:18) on the way to her homeland, Egypt. This is the first reference in the Old Testament to **“the Angel of the LORD”** (lit., **“the Angel of Yahweh”**). This Angel is identified with Yahweh in 16:13, as well as in 22:11-12; 31:11, 13; 48:16; Judges 6:11, 16, 22; 13:22-23; Zechariah 3:1-2. And yet the Angel is distinct from Yahweh (Gen. 24:7; 2 Sam. 24:16; Zech. 1:12). ***58X in O.T. *Angel of God 11X** Thus **“the Angel of the LORD” is a Theophany of the preincarnate Christ/Messiah, Second Person of the Godhead** (cf. Gen. 18:1-2; 19:1; Num. 22:22; Jud. 2:1-4; 5:23; Zech. 12:8).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

ADVISE & ASSURANCE** ⁹ **The Angel of the LORD** said to her, **“Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.”** ¹⁰ Then **the Angel of the LORD** said to her, **“I will multiply your descendants exceedingly (Prosperity), so that they shall not be counted for multitude.”** ¹¹ And **the Angel of the LORD** said to her: **“Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael (“God hears”).NAME...** Because the LORD has heard your affliction.**

***NATURE... *FREE..** ¹² He shall be **a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man’s hand against him.** ***AGGRESSIVE... *NOMADIC...**

And **he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.**

*** Live side by side, But * HOSTILITY & NO PEACE!**

¹³ Then **she called the name of the LORD** who spoke to her, **You-Are- the-God-Who-Sees**; for she said, **“Have I also here seen Him who sees me?”** ¹⁴ Therefore **the well** was called **Beer Lahai Roi**; observe, **it is between Kadesh and Bered.**

¹⁵ So **Hagar bore Abram a son**; and **Abram named his son**, whom **Hagar bore**, **“Ishmael”**.

***Galatians 4:21-31.** ¹⁶ **Abram** was (86) **eighty-six years old** when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

“God is never caught by surprise. When He cannot rule, He overrules; and He always accomplishes His purposes.” ~W. Wiersbe

“The Victorious Christian life is a series of New Beginnings.”

What is faith?

In spite of Abram’s folly, we can learn a great deal from him regarding faith. What is faith? What is it not?

- Faith is a response to God’s Word.
- Faith is not perfection.
- Faith never gives up.
- Faith is the gift of God.
- Faith results in change.
- Faith is demonstrated by obedience