

Genesis 16:7-16 – The Plight of Hagar’s Flight

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Gill, PNAS, Whyttock, Calvin, Delitzsch, Henry, Poole, INT, Geneva, Trapp, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Moslems believe that Hagar was the truly blessed wife of Abram and that her son Ishmael was the special son. Why? Maybe it was the shameful way that Christians who met Mohamed treated him that caused him to reject the Savior’s line, and instead tried to find a godly line and subsequently chose Ishmael’s line. Moslems are wrong to believe this - deadly and sadly wrong. They only have to study the historical account protected and preserved by the Lord to understand what the truth is in God’s interaction with Hagar. When they do, they will see Christ and his work and this is the only they might be saved...and be blessed...as you will be blessed...as you consider Hagar’s flight today.

Our headings are: **Jesus’ Command to a Fleeing Woman**, and **Jesus’ Blessing on a Seeing Woman**.

Our goals are: That **you will see how God interacts with non-believers and how his interacting with non-believers works for the good of his children.**

Jesus’ Command to a Fleeing Woman

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." 9 The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."

1. Hagar left-escaping- trying to cross the desert while pregnant. It was unsafe. It was long. There was little water. She was running away from her mistress and her husband. But what was more foolish is that she seemed to have been heading back to Egypt – a place where there was no proper worship of the true God. She was running back to the sin and darkness of life in Egypt. (The way to Shur was on the way to Egypt.) Instead of looking up to God, she looked down to Egypt.
2. When life got hard for Hagar in the covenant, she abandoned it. Her lack of trust in God became apparent. Later you will see how she allowed her son to mock the child of promise, Isaac, and she did nothing to stop it. In doing so she mocked the Son of God, the true Child of Promise, through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed. (Gal 4) And you have already seen how she hated Sarai... a characteristically non-Christian action. You must love even your enemies.
3. None other than the Lord Jesus, in his pre-incarnate 人体化身 form, met with Hagar as she was running away from Abram and Sarai. (She was northwest in the Arabian desert.) This is a reminder to you who are Christians that God is omniscient. No matter how hard life may be for you, God knows and is ready, willing, and able to help in the way he thinks is best. And when you know that God knows you – even your thoughts he knows– it would keep you from sinning against the Lord from fear...and it would give you confidence to go about your everyday duties.
4. Now this pre-incarnate form is the form that Jesus took before he took on the human flesh of the Virgin Mary. Jesus is called the Angel of the Lord, because he is the Messenger of God. (BTW, this is the first place angels are mentioned in the Bible.) Look how Jesus was called a messenger.
Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.
Isaiah 63:9 In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them All the days of old.
Isaiah pointed out that the Angel – was the Redeemer. So when it is an angel or the Angel, you have to examine the context. In this context...as you will see more clearly later...this was Christ.
5. Jesus met Hagar by a spring of water in the wilderness. There certainly is much symbolism there. Jesus is the living water...to whom Hagar should have turned...and he gives living water to whomever asks. He gives water that always satisfies...even to the soul.

6. Jesus spoke clearly, confronting Hagar of her sin. Jesus insisted that she was a servant and had no grounds for running away. And even though demands on her were harsh, and she needed to return.
7. Lessons: a. Not because you are poor you are free to sin... And not because you have troubles you are allowed to do wrong things. b. See how you can push others – like children – to do foolish things...like parents who push kids to always be 1st in the class and then their children, because they get 2nd place in the class, jump into lakes.) Foolish parents. Foolish children. c. The faithful Christian. He will not be cruel, own his own mistakes, and be gentle to others. d. Learn that even a good and godly woman as Sarai (and Peter calls her godly) can fall into dangerous sins.

Jesus' Blessing on a Seeing Woman

10 Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, 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, Because the LORD has heard your affliction.

1. It is true that Hagar was not a good woman. We've already established that and you will see that more clearly in the future. So why would Jesus meet with her? It was great mercy that stopped her in her tracks as she wandered away from the covenant people...into a desert...to an unknown future. Jesus stopped her and told her to return because it suited his purpose. God wanted to honor Abram's seed. The child was a covenant child and God does not abandon covenant children. Later, Ishmael was circumcised because he was a covenant child.
2. Added to that, Jesus gave her a great incentive 激励 to return. We can call this blessing "common grace." Common grace is a grace that God gives many – even to those who are not his children – like the sun shines on all...the rain falls for all, etc. But you must also remember that while we can call something "common grace" yet, those who reject God's "common grace" will experience "common judgment." God will literally say: I gave you all this...and what did you do with it? Judgment follows a rejection of grace.
3. In Hagar's case God knew exactly what she needed and he offered it to her. And what **rich blessings** he promised her. One man said that whenever God meets with you, you never leave empty-handed. That is often true. God's blessing to her was this: You would have a son who would multiply and have many descendants. This great "blessing of the son" would be the "great blessing of the mother." Jesus even reassured Hagar of the promise by telling her she would have a son...and he even told her his name - Ishmael. Ishmael means "God hears."

12 He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

4. Jesus also gave the fullness of truth to Hagar. He did not hide the fact that Ishmael would be a "wild ass" of a man. In other words, Jesus was already predicting that Ishmael would be a reprobate – wild and untamable. Ishmael would be a man who would fight everyone and a man whom everyone one would fight. John Gill describes Ishmael's descendants as: *...given to rapine (rapid stealing) and plunder, harassing their neighbors by continual excursions and robberies, and pillaging passengers of all nations, which they think they have a right to do...* Consider an example of what a wild donkey is like.

Job 39:5-8 "Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager, Whose home I have made the wilderness, And the barren land his dwelling? He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver. The range of the mountains is his pasture, And he searches after every green thing.

Onager was a wild donkey. So this was not a pretty picture of the coming son. Moslems take this man to be the son of promise because they reject God's Word. But God's Word confirmed

Ishmael's enslavement 奴役 to sin...even in the New Testament.

Galatians 4:21 – The women represented two covenants...the law (Hagar and their children are slaves)...and grace (Isaac that looked to Christ alone, not by works).

Ishmael was in stark contrast with the Messiah **who gave his life to** set people free from sins.

5. Jesus was making a conditional offer to Hagar. She had to return to her mistress and have her baby there, and have him raised in the covenant community. God does not negotiate when he enters into an agreement with someone. He sets the rules and the conditions. He is not desperate and he is not begging you to repent. You reject his covenant at your own peril. 危險

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. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

6. Then when all things were made clear and Hagar realized that it was Jesus, she called him "You-Are-the-God-Who Sees". This name helped to confirm the theophany – the God appearance. And she named the well "Well-of-the-Living One-Who-Sees Me." When anyone would ask: Why is this well named so? Someone would be able to explain that Jesus, God incarnate, appeared to Hagar there when he saw her troubles and talked to her...and blessed her. Hagar called Jesus God. Moslems love Hagar, but they certainly don't like what she said.

7. So Hagar returned to Sarai and Abram from Kadesh and Bered. Those were places known for turmoil and hostility – constant wars. And God saved her from those places. But what a meeting that would have been between Hagar and Abram and Sarai! You can imagine how her description of what the Lord said and did would have rubbed "salt into Abram's and Sarai's wound" as they had struggled with belief and doubted the Lord's Word? And yet, this would have been a source of confirmation of God's promise to them! Their faith in Jehovah would have been strengthened.

Conclusion:

Hagar, bearing a covenant child, was commanded to return to the covenant community for God's purposes: the sake of Abram and the child in her womb. Upon seeing Jesus and hearing his promises to her son, Hagar returned, submitted to her mistress, and had her baby there so he could be raised in a covenant community.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

First, some moral lessons.

1. Learn that there are real consequences in this world to your sinful actions – not just eternal judgments. Examples: One who commits adultery may have to live with Aids, and know that he passed it on to his children or wife... One who steals and is caught, has to live with that shame. One who kills someone while drunk driving will live with that reality.

2. Having a child in the covenant does not automatically make him good. Ishmael became a rebel – wickeder that some who were outside of the covenant – to his father's and Lord's shame.

3. Learn that suffering is part of the Christian life. But as Jesus warned: It is better to go into heaven with one eye than to have both eyes and go into hell.

But second, there is the main lesson: See how God used believers and non-believers alike to accomplish his purposes. In this case...he caused Hagar to return and give comfort to Abram...who would no doubt have worried about his son. (In fact, Abram later asked God to change and accept Ishmael as the chosen son, so much he loved Ishmael.) This caused peace in the home in which Isaac would be born from which the Chosen One would come. Praise the Lord for his sovereign working in all the affairs of men – so Christ would come to die for the sins of the world. Rejoice that your sins were paid for on the cross. Christ's path to the cross was paved with his own efforts. And you have received the credit of his work. Worship him for this!

Finally, those who reject Abram's Seed will die in their sins and go to hell. If you are not God's child through Abram's Seed, ask God to adopt you...and make you his child today. There is hope with Christ; there is hell without him.