



Pastor Scott Velain

Genesis Chapters 15b and 16 The Concubine

Last week we spoke about a lot of different interesting things that we found in Genesis chapters 14 and 15. We spoke about who Melchizedek most likely was. We spoke about why it was that Abram did not want to take anything from the King of Sodom. We spoke about some of the doubts and some of the fears that Abram was experiencing while walking with God throughout his journeys. And we spoke a little bit about how our Father in Heaven dealt with Abram in order to help guide him through the doubt and the fear that Abram was experiencing. But there are few other things to mention in chapter 15 before we move onto chapter 16.

I want us to very quickly revisit Genesis chapter 15 verse 17:

Gen 15:17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

I want us to notice here what passed in between these animals that Abram had cut in half and laid on the ground. We're told that a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. Why? Why did Abram not pass between these pieces? Once again... the promise of this particular covenant was not made by Abram. It was made by Yahovah. And it was Yahovah that was sealing this covenant with Abram. And this is why we do not see Abram passing between the pieces of animals... but only Yahovah himself passes in between the pieces of animals that Abram had laid out upon the ground. And this is something very important for us to catch. Once again, this covenant promise that came straight from the mouth of our heavenly Father was not contingent on Abram or Abrams actions. This covenant promise was only contingent on Yahovah. And so, it was only Yahovah that needed to pass between these pieces of animals that Abram had laid out on the ground. Once again, our Father in heaven was stooping down to Abram's level to help Abram understand that what God said, he was indeed going to do. And because our Father in heaven did this... Abram believed.

God continues to tell Abram that his offspring will be numbered more than the stars of heaven. God continues to tell Abram that he is going to possess the land for as far as he can see. But because Abram still did not have a son as of yet... Abram begins to doubt what God is telling him. Abram begins to wonder how God is going to pull all of this off. How is all of this going to play out?

But our Father in heaven gently guides his child Abram back to faith, by stooping down to

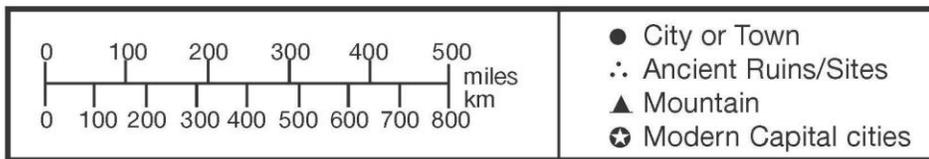
Abram's level and helping him to understand that God does what God says that he's going to do. And at the very end of Genesis chapter 15 God lays out the parameters of the land that he is promising Abram. And I want us to understand exactly how large the parameters of that land really are.

Most of us will look at Israel and wonder why it is that Israel is such a small sliver of land. Israel is really no bigger than Manhattan. What we perceive to be Israel today is not all of what God promised Abram. The little sliver of land that we see as Israel today is not even a 10th of what God promised to give Abram, and what I might add... God promised to give to all of us, because we are the seed of Abraham if we are in our Messiah who was the seed of Abraham.

And so, want to show you this map so that you can get a good idea of how much land really belongs to Israel, and not only to the Jews I might add... but to all the house of Israel.



Ancient cities that exist today are underlined in red on the modern overlays.



If you take a look at this map, you'll see little bitty Israel close to the top of the map on the left side where it says "Canaan" in big black letters. This little sliver in the green is what we know as Israel today, but when we take into consideration what we read in Genesis chapter 15 verses 18 through 21... We can see very clearly that God gave Abram all the land between the Nile River clear over in Egypt to the Euphrates River which runs right down the middle of Iraq. All of that land and everything in between it essentially belongs to us. All of the Gaza Strip and the Suez Canal all of Jordan half of Iraq more than half of Syria half of Egypt and most of the Arabian desert all belongs to the seed of Abram according to what we read in Genesis chapter 15 verses 18 through 21. This my friends is the true God given "Israel".

And so, when we take a look at this map and we take a look at the Scriptures, we can see that what we know as Israel today is a far cry from what God said the nation of Israel was going to be. And I can guarantee you my friends, that what God said... God will indeed do. We know that there will indeed be a greater exodus than the exodus of Moses. It is written within the pages of our Scripture that a greater exodus is indeed coming. And it is written in our Scripture that when this greater exodus happens... People will no longer be talking about the exodus of Moses, because this exodus will be far greater than the exodus of Moses when he rescued his people from out of Egypt. Let's take a quick look at Isaiah chapter 11 verse one to verse 16:

Isa 11:1 *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

Isa 11:2 *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

Isa 11:3 *And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,*

Isa 11:4 *but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

Isa 11:5 *Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

Isa 11:6 *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.*

Isa 11:7 *The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

Isa 11:8 *The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.*

Isa 11:9 *They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

Isa 11:10 *In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of*

him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Isa 11:11 In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

Isa 11:12 He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Isa 11:13 The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

Isa 11:14 But they shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east. They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them.

Isa 11:15 And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals.

Isa 11:16 And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.

Want us to also turn to Jeremiah chapter 16 verses 14 and 15:

Jer 16:14 “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’

Jer 16:15 but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers.

Notice what is being said here in these two verses. He tells us in verse 14 that no one will be talking about the exodus of Egypt... because they will all be talking about the exodus from the nations of the world when God brings his people back into their own land that he gave to their fathers. And there are many, many more Scriptures that you can read concerning this greater exodus. We see it in Jeremiah chapter 16 verses 11 through 21, we see it in Jeremiah chapter 32 versus 37 through 42, we see it in Ezekiel chapter 34 verses 13 and 14, we see in Ezekiel chapter 36 versus 19 through 32, we see in Ezekiel chapter 37 versus 16 through 28, we see it in Isaiah chapter 11 verses 11 through 12, and so it is written about all throughout the Bible that there will indeed be... a greater exodus that is going to bring God’s people back into the land that God promised Abram and his descendants. And just to make a note... we will be talking about this greater exodus on our Radio Program this Monday evening at 7pm on “The House of David Radio Program” that we produce through “Spreaker Radio”, so if you’d like some more information on this greater exodus... be sure and join us here at HolyImpactMinistries.com this Monday evening at 7pm est. Just click on our “House of David Radio Program” link, and it’ll take you to the “House of David Radio Program”. And if you miss it... it will be listen in our

archive section so don't worry if you have to work that particular evening.

And so, I want us to be aware of these things, and I don't want us to be sitting around guessing what happened to the promise that God gave to Abram. The stories not over yet. In fact, the story is far from over. We are indeed living in the end times and we can clearly see that, if we are paying close attention to the signs that have been given to us all throughout the Scriptures. But the end is not come yet, and there are plenty of prophecies that are going to be fulfilled in the very near future, and the world will indeed know once again without a doubt... who the true God of heaven and earth, and his only begotten son really is. Every head will bow, and every knee will bend and every tongue will confess.

Before we leave Genesis chapter 15, I want to also point out something else rather telling in Genesis chapter 15 verse 16:

Gen 15:16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

What does God mean by "*the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete*"? What this means is that the timing of Israel coming back to take the land of Canaan has much to do with the residents of Canaan who were the Amorites. We have to remember that the Amorites lived in Canaan, and because our Father in heaven is a just God... he waited until the Amorites of Canaan had crossed over the line of evil that God had drawn in the sand.

At some point in time, there is a point where God says "*that's it... No more!*" Our Father in heaven does have his limits. Our Father in heaven has more patience than we can ever even imagine, but when he is pushed to the limits of his patients... and he sees that there is no possible way for a person to turn and to come back to him... he eventually does, throw down the gauntlet.

There is a point in time when God's patience does run out, and I believe that that point in time comes when God knows that people have truly made themselves the seed of Satan. It's a time when he knows that there is no longer a possibility for them to turn and to come back to him. It's a time when he knows that they have no intention of turning and coming back. And it's at this point in time... when the iniquity of the Amorites was indeed complete.

And I want us to understand that this time can come for anyone of us as well. There are people who have made themselves friends of this world and enemies of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. But he allows them to be friends with the world for a certain period of time. He allows them to go through these afflictions and these persecutions that the world will inflict upon them because of their own ignorance... for a time. He will allow them to dance with the devil for a short while... but when our Father in heaven sees that a person is absolutely not ever going to turn back to him... and he sees that they have completely sold him out, and traded everything that he has done for them and everything that he has given them for the things of this

wicked world... the end of our Father's patience finally does come. He will not tarry forever. Our Father knows when there's no point in waiting around any longer, and at that point in time he turns us over to a reprobate mind to do things that ought not to be done. And it is at this point in time... that our iniquity is complete. And when this happens to a person, it's over. Life is over. There is no eternal life, there is no gift of salvation, there is no sacrifice, there is no mercy, and there is no grace for those people who have rejected the free gift of salvation that he has offered them. For them... it is indeed... the end.

And so, I just wanted to bring these things to your attention and I wanted to make sure that we are all on the same page, and that we all understand not only what is written in the last paragraph of Genesis chapter 15... but I also just wanted us to understand some of these keys Scriptures that relate directly to the last paragraph of Genesis chapter 15.

And with that all being said... It's time to now move into Genesis chapter 16, and as we always do... I want us to turn to the 16th chapter of the book of Genesis so that we can read through this chapter word for word so that we can know what is in it... as well as, what is not in it. Because it is always equally important to know both, what is in our God breathed Scriptures, as well as... what is not in our God breathed Scriptures so that we can rebuke human cunning and deceitful schemes and not be caught up in every wind of doctrine that comes out of the mouth of a man. Genesis chapter 16:

Gen 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar.

Gen 16:2 And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

Gen 16:3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.

Gen 16:4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.

Gen 16:5 And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!"

Gen 16:6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

Gen 16:7 The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.

Gen 16:8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai."

Gen 16:9 The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her."

Gen 16:10 The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude."

Gen 16:11 And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a

son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction.

Gen 16:12 He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

Gen 16:13 So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."

Gen 16:14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

Gen 16:15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

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

The first thing I want to talk about here in Genesis chapter 16 is the female Egyptian servant Hagar. It is said here in Genesis chapter 16 that Hagar becomes the second wife of Abram because Sarai didn't seem to be able to conceive a son for Abram. The first thing that I want us to understand is how much Sarai must have loved Abram to have done this. I want us to think about what she did for just a moment. How many women in the world today would allow their husbands to take on another mistress because they were unable to conceive? Today that would almost be inconceivable. When we read this, many of us are shocked and may even be dismayed about what Sarai did in giving her husband another woman to have a child by. But I would submit to you my friends that what Sarai did... was out of an immense love for Abram.

Sarai knew the implications of Abram not having a son. Sarai knew that God had spoken to Abram and promised him that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars, and Sarai also was sure that at her age... she was not going to be able to deliver Abram a son.

You see the problem with Sarai's thinking was that she doubted God. She didn't really have faith that God could do what God said he was going to do. In Sarai's small human mind, she could not possibly conceive the idea of having a child at her age. Sarai was sure that her womb had closed and that God had forsaken her as Abram's wife. But even though God seemed to have removed her from the picture... Sarai was not thinking about herself... she was thinking about her beloved husband. Sarai was not going to allow her husband to go without a son. Even if that meant... that her husband would have to take on a mistress, and be with her maidservant.

I daresay that there are few women in the world today that have a love for their husbands the way that Sarai loved Abram. And I daresay that there are few men that love their wives as much as Abram loved Sarai (and we'll see even more evidence of this as we move forward).

According to the ancient Jewish midrash... Hagar was the daughter of King Pharaoh of Egypt. Now our Scriptures do not tell us this, but according to ancient Hebrew tradition... and ancient Hebrew historical documentation... Hagar was one of the gifts that Pharaoh gave to Abram when they were in Egypt. And if you do your homework on the World Wide Web, you'll find all kinds of information concerning what the mid-rash says about Hagar, and we won't get into all of that here for time's sake because it's not written within the pages of our Scriptures, but I do mention it because it is pertinent historically speaking... to what we're talking about here in the

16th chapter of Genesis.

Another thing I want us to understand is that back in those days, this was a common practice. The idea of a wife who could not bear children allowing her husband to be with another woman was a common practice back in Abrams time. And I would even say that today... we often times see this very thing happening, but instead of a wife giving her husband a mistress... today the man simply goes to the doctor and his sperm is inseminated in the egg of another woman and she carries the child to term and then gives it to the man and his wife. So, I want us to realize that the idea of having another woman bear a child for a barren wife's husband... is actually still being done in some circles to this very day. The only difference is... that women today will not allow their husbands to take on a mistress and to care for that other woman. One of the reasons that this doesn't happen today, is because it is illegal in most countries for a man to have more than one wife. There are laws against it and for good reason I might ad.

But Sarai loved Abram so much, that there was no way that she was going to allow him to go without a son. No matter what Sarai had to do, no matter if Sarai had to be excluded from the picture, no matter if Sarai had to be removed from the equation... she was going to make sure that her husband did indeed have a son because she loved him that much and she knew how important it was to him that their family line continued on. And even though it should be clear to us that Sarai did the wrong thing by not waiting for God to fulfill his promise... God knew why Sarai did what she did. God knew that it was out of the love that she had for Abram that she gave Hagar to Abram, and God knew how much pain Sari was in because she could not give her husband a son. And so, our Father permitted it, and he winked in the eye of ignorance.

The problem came when Hagar began to try to take the place of Sarai as Abram's wife. Contention grew quickly between the two women, and Abram knew that Hagar was indeed the servant of his wife Sarai. And so, Abram tells Sarai to do with her what she wished. And of course Sarai was very harsh with Hagar and Hagar takes Ishmael and leaves.

Something else that I think is important is what we find in verse three. Were told that Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. Now it does not say that Hagar was Abram's wife. It does not say that Abram married Hagar. But that she was given to him and I quote "as a wife". In other words she was a concubine. She was a baby-making machine as far as Sarai was concerned. And so, there is no real mention of Abram being married to Hagar. And this is important for us to see. The biblical ties between a man and a husband did not exist between Abram and Hagar the way they did between Abram and Sarah. And this is why Abram tells Sarai that Hagar is her servant and he allows her to do with her as she chooses. And of course, at this point in time Sarai is extremely angry because Hagar is trying to move in on Sarai's territory as the wife of Abram. It's important to remember that Hagar remained a handmaiden to Sarai.

And so, Hagar leaves the household and leaves the camp and is found by an Angel of God who was obviously watching out for. And this Angel of Yahovah tells Hagar to go back and submit

to her mistress Sarai. If Hagar was a true wife of Abram... she would've no longer been under Sarai. She would've become equal with Sarai. And she would no longer belong to Sarai as a handmaiden if Hagar was truly Abram's wife. And so, once again, it's important to see these things and to understand that Hagar was not married to Abram.

And I want us to understand that the Bible does not give much detail about how all of this concubine/wife/substitute child bearer stuff worked. It is clear from what we see from other Middle Eastern cultures of Abraham's time, that these things often times took place... but we do not see anywhere in the Bible where these things were mandated through Scripture. Once again these were man-made traditions and not God ordained commandments. The point in all of this is that Sarai never had to do any of this. God promised that Abram was going to have a son, and Sarai was Abram's wife. Sarai should've had enough faith to know and to understand that whatever God says... God is well capable of doing. But it was because of the lack of Sarai's faith that all of this trouble unfolded in first place. And I would submit to you that God allowed it to happen to teach Sarai a very important lesson.

It's also important to remember that the Angel sent by Yahovah told Hagar that she was going to have a boy child and that this boy child would produce an enormous number of descendents. It's also important to understand that the very name "Ishmael" means "God pays attention", or "God has given heed". Hagar is also told that Ishmael is going to be a wild donkey of a man. The Angel tells Hagar that Ishmael is going to be against everyone, and that he will live in the presence of his kinsman.

Ishmael is primarily remembered for creating the Arabs in Arabia who eventually came to be east of Israel. What we need to remember is that Abram is the true father of both the Arabs and the Israelites which are also at times known as the Ishmaelites and the Israelites. Both the Arab people, and the Israelites are from the same line of Shem, meaning that they are Semites.

Something else that's important to understand is that when we watch our evening news... today's newscasters often times include everyone is Arabs. Not everyone is a true Arab. Most of the Arabs spoken about in the news today, are actually Persians, Egyptians and others in the line of Ham... and are not true Arabs who are from the line of Shem. What people in the news industry tend to do is to identify every Muslim as an Arab... which is completely incorrect. But then again... what do you expect from the news today?

The next thing that I'd like to talk about is this term "the Angel of the Lord". There is no doubt in my mind that there are people that are going to listen to this teaching who are going to be anxious to hear what we say about who the "angel of the Lord" really is. But I think that studying the original Hebrew language will help us to cut through all the conspiracy theories concerning who the "angel of the Lord" truly is.

At times when we have questions about what the word of God says, it's important to understand that with just the click of a mouse, we can now go back and look and see exactly what that

Hebrew word was. And so, let's go back and let's do a little bit of investigative work concerning this particular term "Angel of the Lord". Let's go back to Genesis chapter 16 verse 10.

As we can see in Genesis chapter 16 verse 10 the original Hebrew word for Angel here is "melawk" which means "a deputy, a messenger, specifically of God". If we look at Brown driver Briggs Hebrew definitions... We're told that the Hebrew word "Malak" means "messenger, or representative" which can then be translated as "Angel".

When we look at the word "Lord" in Genesis chapter 16 verse 10 we see that it is indeed the tetragrammaton... the name of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob... which is the Hebrew word "Yahovah". So, there should not be any doubt in anyone's mind that this was a messenger sent by Yahovah according to what we see in the original Hebrew translation.

Now, there's a lot more that can be said about this particular topic... and we're going to get into that as we move forward throughout our Father's Torah. But as for now, here in this particular Scripture, we can clearly see that this indeed is an Angel sent from God. And there should be no mistake about that, there should be no quarreling, there should be no dissension, and there should be no confusion as far as what we see right here in this particular Scripture. And we will get into the other translations of Angels, and spirits, of the Lord as we progress, but as for now this indeed was an Angel (in other words "a spiritual messenger") sent by Yahovah to give Hagar this particular message.

It is important to understand the theology of Angels, and where all kinds of confusion about where Angels comes from. The Pharisees of our Messiah's time had come up with an elaborate hierarchy of Angels... most of which has nothing to do with the Scriptures, and is mostly tradition. The Sadducees on the other hand, which were contemporaries of the Pharisees... didn't even believe that Angels existed. The Essenes had their own understanding of Angels which was quite different from the Pharisees, and the Essene theology concerning Angels, has for the most part, become the basis for the Christian angelology system that we have today.

The truth of the matter is, that we do not know exactly what the Angel of the Lord is. Was it a special kind of Angel? Was it another manifestation of God like the logos of God... or the Holy Spirit of God? Was it a specific Angel that God set aside for certain tasks? Or was it God himself taking on the form of an Angel? The theological debate to this very day rages on. But I would submit to you my friends that the argument is mute. There was some kind of messenger that was sent by Yahovah to give Hagar comfort and instruction, and that's all that we need to be concerned with.

One thing we can be sure of. God himself sent this messenger to give Hagar the comfort and the instruction that she needed. And Hagar was obedient to that instruction.