



God Who Sees
Genesis 16

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January 29, 2017

Coping with suffering:

- ❖ Do not ignore it or pretend like it's okay.
- ❖ You may be called to endure rather than escape.
- ❖ Encounter the Lord and consider his suffering.
- ❖ Recognize that you are not alone.
- ❖ Repent of your own sin.
- ❖ Look for new opportunities to be useful.

Ministry to the suffering:

- ❖ Acknowledge the pain.
- ❖ Do not dismiss or minimize.
- ❖ It is not your responsibility to explain or defend God and his ways.
- ❖ Compassionate actions do not always require words.

Abraham's Journey

From Ur, to Haran, to Canaan, to Egypt



GREAT SEA
(The Mediterranean)

Paddan
Aram

HARAN

NINEVEH

EUPHRATES
RIVER

DAMASCUS

TIGRUS
RIVER

BABYLON

Sumer

UR

Canaan

Arabian
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Genesis 12:2

**“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.**

Genesis 12:3

**“I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”**

God to Abraham: "I will ..."

- ❖ "I will make you into a great nation."
- ❖ "I will bless you."
- ❖ "I will make your name great."
- ❖ "I will bless those who bless you."
- ❖ I will give you all the land that you see
- ❖ "I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth"

Imperatives for Abraham:

- ❖ Walk before me faithfully (17:1)
- ❖ Be blameless (17:1)
- ❖ Keep my covenant (17:9)
- ❖ Be circumcised (17:10)

Genesis 16:1-2

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Genesis 16:2-4

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

Genesis 16:4-5

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."

Proverbs 30:21-23

“Under three things the earth trembles,
under four it cannot bear up:
a servant who becomes king,
a godless fool who gets plenty to eat,
a contemptible woman who gets married,
and a servant who displaces her mistress.

Genesis 16:6

**“Your slave is in your hands,” Abram said.
“Do with her whatever you think best.”
Then Sarai mistreated Hagar;
so she fled from her.**

Genesis 16:7-8

The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"

Good questions:

- ❖ Where have you come from?
- ❖ Where are you going?



Genesis 16:8-9

“I’m running away from my mistress Sarai,” she answered. Then the angel of the LORD told her, “Go back to your mistress and submit to her.”

Genesis 16:10

The angel added, “I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.”



Genesis 16:11

The angel of the LORD also said to her:

“You are now pregnant

and you will give birth to a son.

You shall name him Ishmael,

for the LORD has heard of your misery.

Genesis 16:12

**“He will be a wild donkey of a man;
his hand will be against everyone
and everyone’s hand against him,
and he will live in hostility
toward all his brothers.”**

Genesis 16:13-14

She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

Genesis 16:15-16

So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

What's in a name?

- ❖ Beer Lahai Roi = Well of the Living One who sees me
- ❖ Ishmael = God hears

How old was Abraham?

- ❖ 75 when he left Haran (Genesis 12)
- ❖ 86 when Ishmael was born (Genesis 16)
- ❖ 100 when Isaac was born (Genesis 21)

Who is Hagar?

- ❖ **Woman**
- ❖ **Slave**
- ❖ **Minority**
- ❖ **Mistreated by religious people**
- ❖ **Forced into an exploitative sexual relationship**

Unique in the Bible:

- ❖ Hagar is the only woman to receive a promise of many descendants.
- ❖ Hagar is the only person who assigns a name to God.

P.B. Overland:

“The divine visitations issue a clear message: God is at odds with the notion that gender, economic status or nationality might dispose him to disregard a person. Quite the opposite. As maker of all, God values all, in particular the downtrodden.”

Isaiah 53:1

Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD
been revealed?

Isaiah 53:2

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we
should desire him.

Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him
in low esteem.

Isaiah 53:4

Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

Isaiah 53:8

By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people
he was punished.

Isaiah 53:9

He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Isaiah 53:10

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him
and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life
an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper
in his hand.

Isaiah 53:11

After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant
will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:3-4

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Romans 5:5

And hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured out
into our hearts through the Holy Spirit,
who has been given to us.

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Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper