

Hagar

Genesis 16

by Don Falkos

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Abram had lived in the land of Canaan for ten years, yet despite God's promise of a son, his wife Sarai was still not able to have children. But Sarai owned a young Egyptian slave woman named Hagar whom she gave to Abram saying, "If she has a child, the child will be mine."

However, when Hagar became pregnant, she began treating her mistress with contempt. Sarai said to Abram, "This is all your fault. I gave you my servant, and now that she's pregnant, she despises me. You will answer to God for this."

Abram replied, "Sarai, she's your slave. Do with her as you wish."

Sarai treated Hagar so cruelly that Hagar ran away. She stopped at a stream in the desert to refresh herself. As she rested, an angel appeared with a message from God, "Return to Sarai and be her slave. She will continue to abuse you. But you will give birth to a son. His name will be Ishmael. He will be wild and free. He will fight everyone and everyone will fight him."

Hagar said, "You are the God who hears me." Overwhelmed that God had spoken to her, she obeyed, returning to Abram's household.

The following year Hagar gave birth to a son, and Abram named him Ishmael.