



## An Egyptian Reversal

### *Genesis 16:1-6*

- 1 “female Egyptian servant”- most likely given to them in 12:16 in exchange for Sarai  
2 “YHWH has prevented me”- life and procreation are always in God’s hands  
“Go in to...” the crasser of the two Biblical idioms for sexual intercourse.  
“I shall obtain children by her”- though legal in their day, the Bible does not condone this method  
“Abram listened to the voice of Sarai”- not some insignificant phrase! Check 3:17  
3 10 years- Abram is 85 years old now, Sarai is 75.  
“Sarai, Abram’s wife”- emphasizing the TRUE wife, just like chapter 12 did so often.  
4 “he went in to Hagar”- very different from “Adam KNEW Eve his wife” (4:1, 25. Cain- 4:17)  
“she looked with contempt”- she expects God and Abram’s favor  
5 “May the wrong done to me be on you!”- seems like Sarai is blaming Abram for what she told him to do. But just like Adam and Eve, the man is the head and has ultimate responsibility for the sins committed in his household.  
“May YHWH judge between you and me!”- an assertion of innocence from Sarai  
6 Abram sides with his barren wife and Hagar is mistreated  
Are Sarai’s actions thus far demonstrative of a Theology of Glory or a Theology of the Cross?  
How might Abram’s actions in Gen 12 have affected Sarai’s own understanding of the promise?  
Are Abram’s actions in this chapter Theology of Glory, Cross, or spineless, spoiled chauvinism?

### *Genesis 16:7-10*

- 7 “Angel of YHWH”- is it a common angel or is it the pre-incarnate Jesus? Answered soon  
“spring on the way to Shur”- 25:18 this is where Ishmaelites will settle  
8 Like man and wife in the garden, God asks what he already knows  
10 Hagar’s descendents also have a promise of a multitude- Arabs.  
“The angel of YHWH said, ‘I will surely multiply’”- a clue to our question in verse 7

### *Genesis 16:11-12*

- 11 “You shall call his name Ishmael,”- name means “God hears”  
12 “He shall be a wild donkey of a man,”- unbridled and wild  
“his hand against everyone”- given to warfare and bloodshed  
Without racially profiling, can we say this prophecy has remained true of Ishmael’s descendants?

### *Genesis 16:13-16*

- 13 “I have seen him who looks after me”- another clue to the identity of the angel of YHWH  
14 “Beer-lahai-roi”- the well of the Living One who sees me”  
16 “Abram was 86”- lets us know it’s been 10-11 years since the initial promise was made

## Circumcision: The Old Testament Sacrament

### *Genesis 17:1-8*

<sup>2</sup>And let me make my covenant between me and you, and let me multiply you greatly.”(VMT)

- 1 “Abram was 99”- 24 years after the initial promise in Gen 12.  
“God Almighty”- El Shaddai, meaning of Shaddai is not known

“Walk before me, and be blameless”- *Luther- What else did God want than that Abraham should continue in the righteousness and faith because of which he had been declared righteous and that he should be uncorrupted, blameless, and perfect?*”

2 VMT has a distinct difference.

4 “my covenant is with you”- like the Gospel, God’s Word is always with us

“You shall be the father...”- the promise is reiterated just like previous chapters

5 God adds a name to the promise. Changed from “Exalted Father” to “Father of a Multitude”

7 Who does the establishing of this covenant?

Who does the covenant extend to?

How long will the covenant last?

8 Who gives the land?

“an everlasting possession”- Let’s apply the “Prophetic Perspective.”

“I will be their God”- the best promise of all! Remember, God makes himself their God

### ***Genesis 17:9-14***

9 “You shall **KEEP** my covenant”- Gen 2:15, 4:9- keeping God’s blessings is NOT some kind of obedience to the Law. It is not our half of the covenant. What can we compare it to? Luke 2:19

10 God adds a sign to his promise- Promise of God + Visible, physical sign = Sacrament

Every male shall be circumcised- is the promise and blessing only for males?

11 “it shall be a sign of the covenant”- What is the significance of the foreskin?

What does “sign” mean?- it does not exist for itself but points to the Word attached to it

(Rom 4:11)

12 “8 days old”- inclusion in God’s covenant is given to infants, He is their God (17:8)

Why the 8<sup>th</sup> Day? Think back to Genesis 1- This is the New Creation!

13 an everlasting covenant in his flesh- the covenant is rooted in blood and procreation

14 “cut off from his people”- refusing the *Sign* displays unbelief in the *Word* that fills it

“he has broken my covenant”- God alone makes the covenant and carries it out. Refusing to take part of it is the only way to be outside of it. It is a refusal of God’s grace.

Psalms 25:1-15

N: <sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

S: <sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust;

N: let me not be put to shame;

S: let not my enemies exult over me.

N: <sup>3</sup>Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

S: they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

N: <sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

S: teach me your paths.

N: <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,

S: for you are the God of my salvation;

N: for you I wait all the day long.

S: <sup>6</sup>Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,

N: for they have been from of old.

S: <sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

N: according to your steadfast love remember me,

S: for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

N: <sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD;

S: therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

N: <sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right,

S: and teaches the humble his way.

N: <sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,

S: for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

N: <sup>11</sup>For your name’s sake, O LORD,

S: pardon my guilt, for it is great.

N: <sup>12</sup>Who is the man who fears the LORD?

S: Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.

N: <sup>13</sup>His soul shall abide in well-being,

S: and his offspring shall inherit the land.

N: <sup>14</sup>The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,

S: and he makes known to them his covenant.

N: <sup>15</sup>My eyes are ever toward the LORD,

S: for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**And to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the beginning**

**Is now and will be forever Amen**