



- I wasn't sure about doing a lesson about Hagar.
- Focus has been about women of faith who hoped in God.
- But we don't know very much about Hagar at all.
 - Egyptian
 - No overt statements about her faith at all.
- She's a woman who is wandering in a neutral zone, almost, alone and outcast
 - And that's really where the importance of her story lies.
 - Sometimes, we all struggle in that area.



Hagar's Afflictions

- Hagar is horribly mistreated, used and abused by Abraham and Sarah
- Genesis 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, (God hears) because the LORD has listened to your affliction.



Hagar's Afflictions

- Hagar is Sarai's servant from Egypt
 - Told nothing about how this came to be specifically
 - From Haran?:
 - Genesis 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,



- From Egypt?
 - Genesis 12:16 And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, **female servants**, female donkeys, and camels.
- Not sure exactly what rights and responsibilities there were between masters and slaves at the time of Abram



- Sarai “gave” (16:3) Hagar to Abram as wife to “obtain children by her” (16:2)
 - There are some Mesopotamian and Babylonia texts that indicate this was not just a recognized custom, but had been codified into their law.



Hagar's Afflictions

Sarai "gave her" to Abram

- But this is not right in God's eyes. Nor was this a part of God's plan.
 - Hagar is not Abram's wife:
 - vs. 6: "your servant" (to Sarai)
 - vs. 8: "feeling from my mistress Sarai"
 - vs. 9: "return to your mistress and submit to her" (not Abram!)



- But this is not just about Abram having a sexual relationship outside of his marriage bond.
- I don't think Hagar had a choice, which means she didn't consent, which makes this, essentially, rape.
- If you don't want call it rape, fine, but it was a shameful and sinful thing to do to Hagar.



Hagar's Afflictions

Sarai dealt harshly with her

- When Hagar conceives she's not nice to Sarai:
 - "looked on her with contempt" (her mistress was dishonorable in her eyes) (4)
 - ASV, KJV, NASB, NKJV, NET, NIV: despised
 - Young: "lightly esteemed"



- (TWOT) The primary meaning "to be light or slight," applied to individuals, is used of Hagar's esteem for Sarah (Gen 16:4-5). Sarah was not lowered in position, As a barren women, however, she was "lowered" in function and prestige. Hence, Hagar's attitude "struck home."
- (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes) 16:4 c tn Heb "and she saw that she was pregnant and her mistress was despised in her eyes." The Hebrew verb קָלַל (qalal) means "to despise, to treat lightly, to treat with contempt." In Hagar's opinion Sarai had been demoted.



- Sarai “dealt harshly” (6) with Abram’s assent
 - “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.”
 - (NET Bible Notes - Full Notes) 16:6 e tn In the Piel stem the verb עָנָה ('anah) means "to afflict, to oppress, to treat harshly, to mistreat.”
 - CWSB: in a state of oppression
 - Whatever Sarai did, it was bad enough that Hagar, pregnant, ran away into the wilderness
 - It seems that Hagar is near death when the angel of Jehovah approaches her.



- Sarah “casts out” Hagar and Ishmael (13 years later) (Gen. 21:8-21)
 - Saw Ishmael “laughing” or “mocking” (9)
 - Galatians 4:29 But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh **persecuted** him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.
 - Sarah tells Abraham to cast out Hagar
 - He gave them bread and water and sent her away
 - Hagar and Ishmael wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.
 - Again, close to death when the angel of God speaks to her.



- Was Hagar Afflicted? Certainly.
 - How alone she must have felt in that household.
 - Did Hagar have faith in Jehovah?



Hagar's Afflictions

- All the questions that might have passed through her head
 - Shouldn't these followers of Jehovah have been better people? Behaved with some integrity?
 - Are they not hypocrites?
 - sex outside of marriage
 - dealing harshly
 - casting her out
 - leaving them to die in the wilderness



- Why would Hagar listen to Jehovah?
 - Why would she have anything to do with such hypocrites and bad people?
 - Why would Jehovah force her to go back into that situation?
 - Jehovah rejected her child as being an special heir through Abram.
- I doubt that I've come close to the struggle she faced in thinking about her life and her master and her mistress.



- Fleeing From Sarai — First Encounter with Jehovah (Genesis 16:6-16)
- Hagar flees from Sarai, pregnant
 - desperate to find relief from the oppression of Sarai and the neglect of Abram
 - Angel of Jehovah finds her by a spring of water in the wilderness

Fleeing from Sarai



Jehovah has listened

- v. 11) “Jehovah has listened to your affliction”
 - This implies that Hagar was crying out for help
 - Was she praying? Praying to Jehovah?
 - It doesn't really matter ... Jehovah heard it, and responded to her.

Fleeing from Sarai



Jehovah has listened

- And that is really, really amazing.
 - Should we think that Jehovah was only aware of Hagar's affliction at this moment?
 - Or her affliction in being the servant of Sarai?
 - She may have felt invisible (or wished to be invisible)
 - Like she was only property; a means to an end; a useful tool
 - Something that was worthless, and easily thrown away, dismissed.
 - But Jehovah did not see her this way.



- Jehovah has a plan for Hagar and Ishmael
 - Although Abram and Sarai have acted outside of God's plan and will
 - Jehovah had told Abram that he would be blessed
 - And this is Abram's child
 - Thus Jehovah accommodates the failure of Abram and Sarai



Fleeing from Sarai

God hears (Ishmael)

- Jehovah makes promises to Hagar
 - Call his name Ishmael: God hears
 - Multiply your offspring ... numbered for a multitude
 - Son will be a wild donkey of a man
 - Hostility (hand against everyone, everyone against him)
 - Be independent



- Jehovah has a task for Hagar
 - vs. 9: Return to your mistress and submit to her
 - This had to be hard to hear, and harder to do.
 - Considering how she had been mistreated, it's an abhorrent thought.
 - (I really wish we knew of Jehovah had some words with Abram and Sarai about this whole mess they created?)



Fleeing from Sarai

God of Seeing (El Ro'i)

- Hagar calls Jehovah: “El Ro’i”
 - “You are a God of seeing” (You are a God who sees me.)
 - “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me”
 - This is more than just seeing, or awareness.
 - Jehovah is providing for Hagar and her son.
 - Both at this moment and for the future.



- Jehovah takes care of his children.
 - But that doesn't mean it's easy.
 - And often it's incomprehensible.
 - Let's not fool ourselves, thinking this means we will never face evil or persecution.
 - Many of those who have followed Jesus have died unjustly.
 - Bad things happen to God's people.
 - He loves his son, but his son died cruelly on a cross.
- Jehovah's plan is for our salvation.



- Cast out by Sarah — Second Encounter with Jehovah (Genesis 21:8-21)
- On a day of a great feast, Sarah sees Ishmael laughing (or mocking).
 - Paul helps clarify that Ishmael persecuted Isaac (Galatians 4:29)
 - Ishmael is 16-ish years old.
 - Isaac maybe 3.
 - Sarah demands that Abraham cast out Hagar and Ishmael
 - Abraham gives Hagar bread and water and sends them away



- Hagar and Ishmael wander in the wilderness of Beersheba
 - Forced from their home again.
 - Rejected by his father.
 - When water is gone, Hagar lays Ishmael under a bush
 - She goes a long way off: lifted up her voice and wept
 - Is this prayer? anguish? both?
 - “Let me not look on the death of the child”
 - But what about the promises that had been made 16 years earlier?
 - Seems unlikely at this point, impossible



- God heard (17)
 - the voice of the boy (hmmm)
 - Called to Hagar from heaven
 - What troubles you Hagar?
 - So many things ... but at this moment, death of her son and her death
 - This is not dismissive of the troubles, rather calls us to consider things more deeply.
 - There are troubles, but there is also Jehovah and his promises.
 - Sometimes we focus on the moment (understandably) but struggle with the bigger picture



- Fear Not
 - encouragement that God is aware and active
 - He has heard
- Up
 - Lift up the boy, hold him (he's not going to die)
 - I will make a great nation (he has a future)
- Again, heard in this passage is more than just about the moment.
 - And more than just hearing.
 - God is active, when they have lost hope.



- God opened her eyes (19)
 - saw a well of water
 - Sometimes we fail to see the solution or help that God has put before us?
 - Or this was a miracle for saving them.
 - Which reminds us of God's power for us.



- God was with the boy (20)
 - Although cast out and not the child of promise
 - Jehovah had made promises to both Abraham and Hagar
 - And so Jehovah was with him
 - He grew up, expert with a bow, wife from Egypt.
 - Jehovah did not abandon him.



- God has saved them.
 - Again. And really that's what this is about
 - These two who were rejected, and cast out and left to die
 - Even by those who should have been better.
 - God still saved them.
 - God values you.

What do we learn from Hagar?



- What do we learn from Hagar?

What do we learn from Hagar?

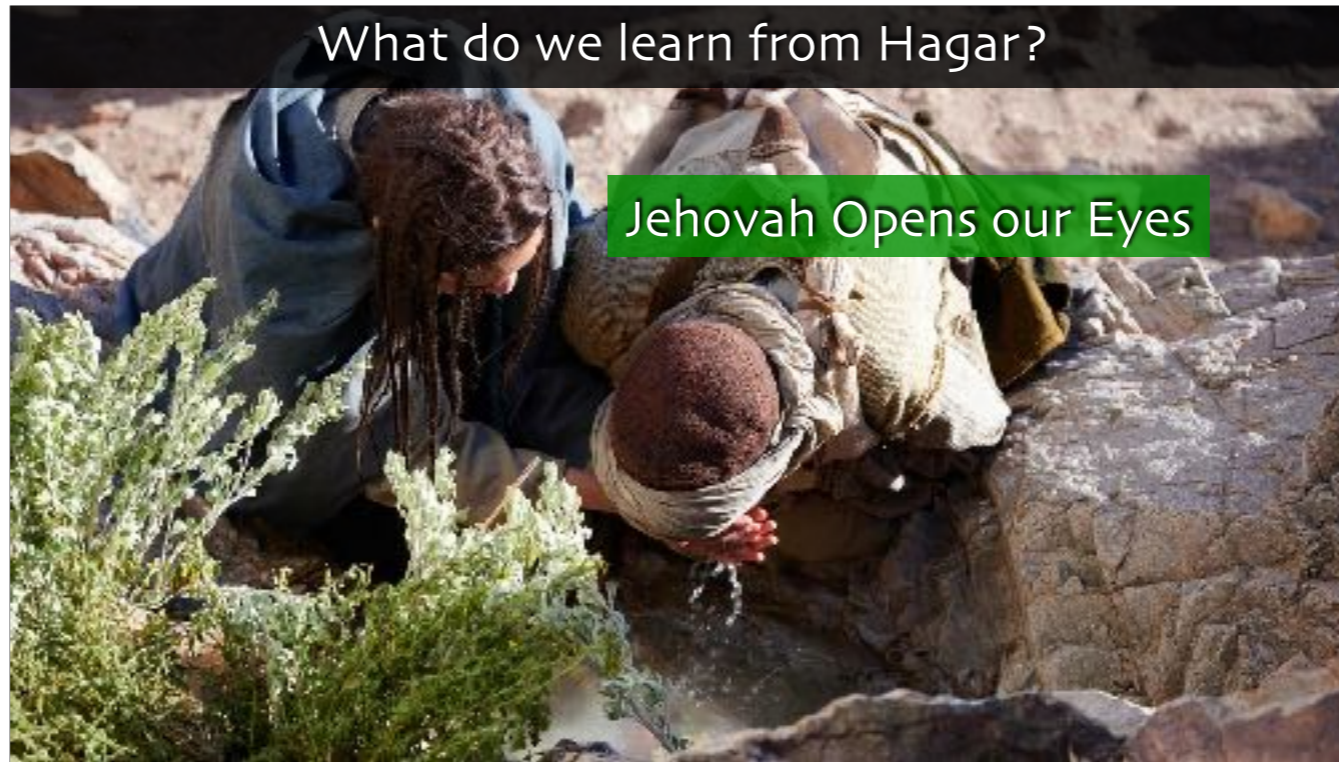


- Some of God's people will treat you poorly or even wrong.
 - You may be tempted to give up on God because of them.
 - You may be tempted to give up on them.
 - You might want to flee (or even need to flee from them)
 - Ask: Why would God let this happen to me?
 - Did Hagar deserve what happened to her? No.
 - Was Hagar being punished by God? No.
- God's people, sadly, sometimes act very poorly.
 - Jesus knew this.
 - The Apostles knew this.
 - Paul knew this.

What do we learn from Hagar?



- Jehovah Hears & Sees
 - It doesn't mean that we will always have a free pass out of our trouble.
 - But we can cry out to God and be assured that he knows.
 - Affliction
 - Sorrow, Weary
 - When we are feeling unimportant, persecuted, abandoned, despised, lost in the wilderness
 - He knows
 - We are not alone



- Jehovah Opens our Eyes
 - Hagar needed a change in perspective:
 - See God's care
 - God's provisions
 - God's blessings.
 - Elijah's servant: surrounded by army. But that army was surrounded by God's army.
 - It doesn't mean the troubles end.
 - But that we have sufficient to get through.

What do we learn from Hagar?



- Jehovah Saves
 - Fully realized in Jesus.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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The birth of Ishmael

Genesis 16:1-16



Isaac is born and Ishmael departs

Genesis 21:1-21

THE COVENANT

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God of Seeing - Hagar

Genesis 16:13

Synopsis: Hagar was afflicted and mistreated by Sarah and Abraham. In this lesson we see that she had faith in Jehovah despite that bad behavior. She was blessed to encounter Jehovah twice as he saved her and Ishmael. In doing so, we learn that Jehovah hears, sees, and cares for her.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”