



# Blessed Bondservants

Genesis 16 + 21

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# **Genesis 16:1-6**      PARAPHRASE

*In Genesis we see that God had given Abraham and Sarah a promise that he would bless them with a child who would be the father of a great nation. After a decade, Sarah became frustrated that God did not fulfill his promise of a son, so she took matters into her own hands. She asked Abraham to marry her servant. So, Abraham wed Hagar and had a child with her.*

# **Genesis 16:1-6**      PARAPHRASE

*Hagar was filled with pride at her ability to bear a child and this offended Sarah. She asked Abraham to kick Hagar out of the camp. Abraham left the decision to Sarah, and decided not to intervene in the increasingly difficult situation regarding his barren first wife and his pregnant slave turned second wife. Sarah dealt harshly with Hagar, and Hagar ran away.*

## **Genesis 16:7-10**

**<sup>7</sup> The angel of the Lord found Hagar by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarah, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarah." <sup>9</sup> The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her."**

## **Genesis 16:7-10**

**<sup>10</sup> The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." So she called out and named this God she encountered. "You are a God of seeing," she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." Hagar returned and gave birth to her son, who was named Ishmael. Abraham was eighty-six years old.**

# **Genesis 21:1-13** PARAPHRASE

*Twenty-four years after the original promise Sarah had a son with Abraham, and they named him Isaac. Abraham was 100 years old at this time, (Sarah was 90) and they raised Issac according to God's command. Isaac grew, and Abraham celebrated, but when Isaac was around 3 or 4, Sarah saw Ishmael mocking him.*

# **Genesis 21:1-13** PARAPHRASE

*She was infuriated and demanded that Abraham cast Hagar and Ishmael away. This upset Abraham because he loved his son, but the Lord reminded him of His promise to Abraham and his descendants.*

## **Genesis 21:14-20**

**<sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.**

**<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes.**



## **Genesis 21:14-20**

**<sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her,**

## **Genesis 21:14-20**

**“What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.**

**<sup>18</sup> Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation.” <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.**

**<sup>20</sup> And God was with the boy, and he grew up.**

# **The Blessed**

**Abraham and Sarah show us that we inherit a relationship with a faithful God and access to the power of life.**

# **1A. Relationship with a faithful God.**

*“The feeling of being blessed is not, it seems to me, the feeling that we generally have about ourselves... In fact, I suspect that many people suffer from a deep sense of being cursed... Many people... feel like victims of a world we cannot change... The sense of being cursed often comes more easily than the sense of being blessed, and we can find enough arguments to feed it.*”



*We can say: “Look what is happening in the world! ... Where, where is the blessing?... Still, I say to you, as the Beloved Son of God, you are blessed. Good words are being spoken to you and about you – words that tell the truth. The curses – noisy, boisterous, loud-mouthed as they may be – do not tell the truth.”*

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**1B. Access to the  
power of life.**

# **What does it look like to claim this power?**

- **Pray for healing.**
- **Pray for transformation.**
- **Pray for restoration and peace.**
- **Pray for audacious things.**



# **The Bondservant**

**Through Hagar the bondservant, we see that we inherit  
a relationship with a present King and access to the well of life.**

# **2A. Relationship with a present King.**

**In this relationship we find both comfort and conviction.**

**2B. Access to  
the well of life.**

## **John 4:13**

**“Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”**

## **Revelation 22:17**

**“The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the Water of Life without price.”**

# The Bridegroom

Ultimately, it is through relationship with the bridegroom that we inherit our true identity as blessed bondservants.