

## Refresher on where we left off (seems like a year ago) (35)

In Genesis 14: 1-17 Territorial war broke out and Lot and the people (and goods) of Sodom and Gomorrah were taken by the invading nations. Abram (not yet called Abraham by God) was informed about the invasion and capture of his nephew Lot. Abram takes 318 of his servant/soldiers and chases after the invading armies.

We noted that Abram's people had increased significantly in the 14 years since he had settled by the "terebinth trees". Abram's wealth and goods also multiplied. We also were told in previous chapters that Lot had chosen what looked to be better to settle and that he walked by sight and not by faith.

We also recognized, by the Scriptures, that Abram should have never taken Lot with him when the Lord said, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you (Genesis 12:1)" and that the Lord did not show Abram the promised land until Lot had separated from him: "And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him; 'Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are - northward, southward, eastward, and westward, for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever, ...'" (Genesis 13:14+15). This leads to our understanding that God's promises never get fulfilled until we are in full obedience.

Abram rescues Lot. Scripture however tells us that upon his return to the territory Lot heads right back to Sodom and Gomorrah.

In Genesis 14:18-20 We come across the "priest of

God Most High! He is the King of Salem (Jerusalem). (36)  
He has no beginning and no end and his (His?) name means  
"King of Righteousness".

In chapter 15 God comes to Abram, in a vision, and tells him that he will be blessed with an heir, of his own flesh, and his generations will be unnumberable in size. God makes an unconditional covenant (One sided agreement) with Abram that it will be so. This is done while Abram is in a deep sleep state during which time God also lays out more detail on the scheduled events which will lead to the multiplication of the peoples. We know this to be the time when the Hebrews would be enslaved in Egypt for 400 years.

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Genesis 16:1-4: Abram and Sarai had grown impatient because they were well past the age of child bearing and it had been 10 years since God gave the promise to Abram of him having an heir. This brings to mind several possibilities as to why:  
(1) Possibly, the delay in Sarai becoming pregnant could have been because they had gone down to Egypt during the famine and sought to help themselves in the situation instead of relying on God's provincial blessings. Against the direct command of God or (2) The time was not yet at hand for God to bless Abram and Sarai with a child. Maybe God didn't want to bless them with a child when it was impossible but rather when it was absolutely, unequivocally, beyond any chance, impossible. (That is after all God's M.O.). or (3) A combination thereof.

Never-the-less, Abram and Sarai messed up royally and have to bear the responsibility for what has cursed Israel to this day. The Arab nation, the Ishmaelites, the Muslim nations and the origin of all things Mohammad.

It is just as important to read what the Scripture (37) does not say, as it is to read what it does say. In no

way shape or form did they reach out to God with their grievance. They never said, "God, why has your promise not yet come about to be?" "Am I not in your will?" "Did you forget about me?" "Have you changed your mind?"

Surely if Abram had inquired the Lord God would have answered him, just like He did in Chapter 15 when Abram asked the Lord about whether Eliezer of Damascus would be his heir and the Lord replied, "This one shall not be your heir....."

If they would have diligently sought God in prayer He would have answered! God will not let us make life altering mistakes if we diligently seek His will. But He will let us make those devastating decisions if we make them using our own judgement! verse 3 is even scarier: "The Sarai, Abram's

wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife." verse 4: "... and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes." (basically knowing that Abram was able to bring forth a child so it must be Sarai who is at fault). Absolutely ugly all the way around. Devastating for Abram, Sarai and soon Hagar!

Genesis 16:5+6: Then Sarai blames Abram, Abram rebutes Sarai, Sarai is cruel to Hagar and punishes her. So Sarai runs for her life.

Genesis 16:7+8 The Angel of the LORD (Son of God/Preincarnate Jesus) seeks out Hagar. He asks the question, not because He does not know the answer, but because He wants her (us) to speak out her situation.

Genesis 16: 9-12 : The Angel of the LORD sends Hagar (38) back to Abram and Sarai with the promise that the child

that is to be born will be the father of multitudes of people. He goes on to state that his name shall be called Ishmael, which means "God hears". He also makes clear that the nation that stems from Ismael will be a warring nation.

Genesis 16: 13-15 : The only person, that I know of, that gives God a name in the Bible is Hagar. She calls Him, the God who Sees" (Beer Lahai Rol (the Well of the One Who Sees and Hears Me). The name she gives Him calls Him the One Who can find those running and lost. The other names of God are of His attributes. (See printout). (At least the only non-Israelite).

Genesis 16: 16 We are told Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael <sup>was</sup> born.

Genesis 17: 1-2 : When Abram was 99 years old (13 years later) the

LORD appeared to him, now ready to bless Abram and Sarai with the promised child. He also tells him that he should now be a faithful witness to God ("walk before Me and be blameless")

Genesis 17: 3-14 With this promise of a great nation, God changes his name from Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of many). God also clarifies to Abraham that his descendants, and those who join his ensemble, are to be a separate holy people identified by circumcision on the eighth day. They would later be known as Israelites. Abraham → Isaac → Jacob who wrestled with God and was renamed Israel. From Jacob/Israel came the 12 sons also known as the 12 tribes of Israel. The covenant was a conditional

covenant with God blessing Israel everlastingly and the nation of Israel practicing circumcision (the cutting away of the fleshly sin nature) and walking righteously before God. (8th day : 8 is new beginning, 8th day is painless/blood coagulates?)

Genesis 17:15-16 God also changes Sarai's name (39)  
(my lady, or my princess. Meaning her dominion to one

family) to Sarah (meaning her dominion to many nations or Princess of a multitude). Indeed this multitude would be the nation of Israel from whom the Lord Jesus Christ would come and hence the mother of all of God's people, Jew + Gentile.

Genesis 17:17 Abraham "falls on his face and laughs" probably means that Abraham was in shock, perplexed and most assuredly confused, after all Sarah was 90 years old. (This is the only age given for a female <sup>in the Bible</sup>)

Genesis 17:18 Then reality set in and Abraham realized that the boy Ismael that he had grown to love would not be the promised one. After all for 13 years he figured that God would accept his taking things in to his own hands. No. Our sin will find us out and then it will be excruciating! Abraham pleads with God to let Ismael be the chosen one.

Genesis 17:19-20 God says that Sarah will bear a child and his name is to be Isaac. Isaac means "he will laugh" or as some theologians state "child of my laughter". (Abraham laughed in 17:17 and Sarah will laugh in 18:12). God goes on to proclaim that Ismael shall have many descendants and they shall prosper. (Indeed the Arab nations <sup>are the</sup> wealthiest).

Genesis 17:21-27 God goes on to make clear that Sarah will bear Isaac the same time next year. So now no more waiting it is 12 months away. Again did God wait till it was impossible for Sarah to have children with 99 year old Abraham, or had the time come for God to set in motion the nation of Israel?

Abraham would not delay. He had every male in his household, and among his people circumcised including himself that very same day. (When God gives a directive it is always expected to be carried out that very same day! Or else, as we will find out from Pharaoh who said, "tomorrow, . . . .").