

Abraham-Sarah in Lesson of Hagar

Husband Wife Interactions

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What We Will Learn

- Strength and longevity of marital bond
- Abram and Sarai showed their union more important than anything
 - Hagar's admittance
 - Into Abram-Sarai relationship
 - Threatened disruption
 - Abram and Sarai successfully resisted
- Genesis 16:1–15

Sarai's Offer

- After 10 years in Canaan
- Sarai offered maidservant Hagar to Abram
- So they could have a child through Hagar
- Expected of Hagar
 - Remain loyal and subservient to Sarai
 - Have a child for Sarai and Abram
- Genesis 16:1–4

Genesis 16 (NKJV)

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

Genesis 16 (NKJV)

3 Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.

4 So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived.
... [*to be continued*]

The Regret

- Abram and Sarai believed a child through Hagar would solve their problem
- But after Hagar conceived
- She began to despise Sarai
- Instead of wife to Abram through Sarai
- She jockeyed to be “wife to Abram” superior to Sarai
- Genesis 16:4–5

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Genesis 16 (NKJV)

4 ... And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The Lord judge between you and me.”

The Choice

- Abram surrendered authority over Hagar
- Completely to Sarai
- Sarai treated Hagar harshly until she fled
- Abram and Sarai chose their union
- In preference to anything
- Including having a child through Hagar
- Genesis 16:6

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Genesis 16 (NKJV)

6 So Abram said to Sarai, “Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please.” And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

High Stakes' Decision

- Abram was desperate to have a child
- A child born to him to become his heir
- Could Hagar's pregnancy
- Be the fulfillment of God's promise
- A child "from his body" would be his heir
- But chose his union with Sarai
- In preference to anything
- Genesis 15:1–5

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Genesis 15 (NKJV)

1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.”

2 But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

Genesis 15 (NKJV)

3 Then Abram said, “Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!”

4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.”

Genesis 15 (NKJV)

5 Then He brought him outside and said, “Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.” And He said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

Abram-Sarai Relationship

- Abram was 85 years old, Sarai 75
- Sarai was his half-sister
- So they knew each other all their life
- And must have married early
- Guessing...
 - They had lived >50 years as married couple
 - Prior to this interaction
- Genesis 12:4, 17:17, and 20:11–12

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Genesis 12 (NKJV)

4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 17 (NKJV)

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

Genesis 20 (NKJV)

11 And Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife.

12 But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

Abram-Sarai Bonding

- Occurred over several decades
- Of respect, honor, and care
- From both sides
- When events required they choose
- They chose their union
- In preference to having a child through Hagar

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What We Learned

- Abram and Sarai showed their union more important than anything
- They gave up opportunity to have a child through Hagar
- Because Hagar threatened to disrupt their treasured relationship

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