

The Life of Abraham—The Journey Begins

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Getting Ahead of God

Waiting on the Lord

I am no different than you. Sometimes we find ourselves facing a dilemma. There are so many different kinds to choose from and no matter what kind you face, life can be messy. There is job related decisions affecting your career, school and college choices, both that not only affect you but your families as well. The job pays good but you would have to move your family to Alaska. You want to finish your degree but you would sacrifice time with your family and your children have been wanting more of you. Romantic situations can cause not just a dilemma but an outright crisis. Who hasn't had financial dilemma's?

Abram's dilemma starts back in chapter

Gen 15:4 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."

Abram and Sarai waited and waited on the Lord until Sarai got tired of waiting and decided to take things in her own hands after all "God helps those that helps themselves" right?

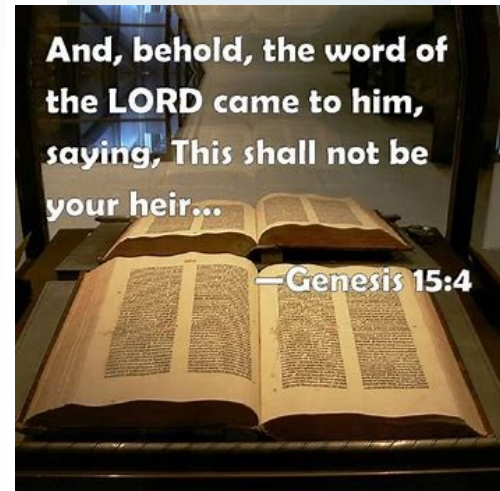
Let's rewind just a bit.

The Past Catching Up

Abram and Sarai went to Egypt and as they got close, Abram told Sarai how beautiful she was and worried he would be put to death so that the Egyptians could do the sand dance and take Sarai to be their wife. So he conceived this idea... I'll tell them your my Sister. They paid him well thinking she was his Sister but in the end

Inside this study guide

- Waiting on God1
- The Past Catching Up1
- The Past Catching Up Cont2
- About Abram's Disobedience3



The Past Catching up

They discovered the truth and sent them away “with all they gave them”. In truth, Sarai was Abram’s half sister. At that time it was permitted but later in Leviticus 18:9 such unions were banned.

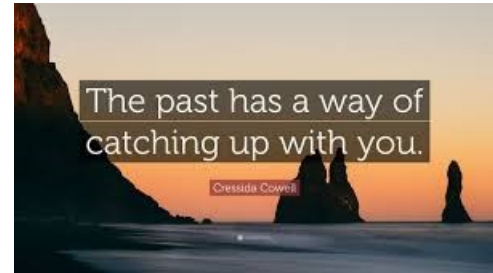
Gen 12:16 He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

Now into the camp of Abram, a female servant by the name of Hagar arrives. Years later...

Gen 16:1-2

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

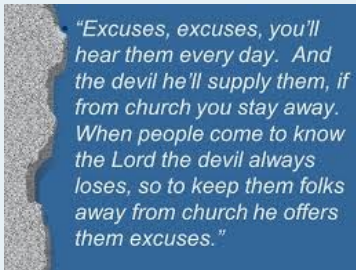
(2) So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded-



Hagar

God doesn't answer prayers at the last minute, He answers them at the right moment.—Charles Swindoll

Abram's Greatness



Abram's Past Catches Up With Him

It was their earlier decision that now caused a dilemma. Without already knowing the history, think a moment like Sarai must have thought. Here is my translation “I’m too old to have children and the Lord said it would be from the seed of Abram, He didn’t say it would be from me”. In those days a woman could give her handmaid to her husband and if they had a child it would be considered the wife’s child and if the husband accepted him as son then he would be the heir.

Sarai probably thought she had figured out their situation, she had solved it. On top of that, Abram listened to his wife’s reasoning and accepted it

What is missing in this whole scenario?

In all her speculation and all her thought process to help solve **God's problem** to provide Abram an heir. They both forgot to talk to God about it. They forgot to pray!

Have you ever gotten so involved in trying to resolve your dilemma that you run ahead, think things through and figure it out on your own without praying about it? It's like saying “I’ve got this God, no need for you to worry about it”. We get impatient and run ahead of God and make a mess of things!

Things didn’t end well... in fact, they didn’t end at all. Things got worse. Read **Genesis 16:4-8** Sarai, was full of jealousy. In those day the community looked down on a woman that could not bare children and so Hagar was elevated above Sarai in their eyes and that didn’t bode well with Sarai. Sarai blames Abram, He then put it’s all back on her to do as she pleases with “her” servant. Poor Hagar!

Abraham's Disobedience

Things didn't end well... in fact, they didn't end at all. Things got worse. Read **Genesis 16:4-8** Sarai, was full of jealousy. In those day the community looked down on a woman that could not bare children and so Hagar was elevated above Sarai in their eyes and that didn't bode well with Sarai. Sarai blames Abram, He then put it's all back on her to do as she pleases with "her" servant. Poor Hagar!

This reminds me of several quotes I've heard in my life. One is **"Sin will always find you out"**.

But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.(Numbers 32:23)

The other quote was **"Sin will take you Farther than you want to go, make you stay longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay"**. R Zaccharias

God's angel then meets with Hagar to communicate God's love to her and her unborn baby. You see, God's love is unconditional and concerning unborn children, His love is ABSOLUTE no matter the circumstances. Think about that.

Dear Christian we all have a past, but when you receive Jesus as your Savior your sins are forgiven, removed as far as the east is from the West. There still may be consequences here on Earth for what you did but your home in Heaven is secured. Don't let Satan and others hinder you with growing in Christ. Simply say "I am born again, the sin in my past life have been forgiven". I remember singing a song that had these words in the chorus,

**"What sins are you talking about?
I don't remember them anymore;
From the Book of Life they've all been torn out,
I don't remember them anymore".**

If you have never received Jesus as your Savior, why not do it today? Vist my page at the Good News tab at the top of our website or simply go to this link.

[GOOD NEWS — Christ is Truth Ministry.org](http://www.ChristisTruthMinistry.org)

Sin

will take you FARTHER than you want to GO, KEEP you longer than you want to stay, and COST you more than you want to pay.

**GOD'S
ABSOLUTE**

**LOVE
TRUTH**
Keep on believing

BY JOY MALOY