

~ISHMAEL 1 (366)

(Ish'ma-el) [God Hears or Listens]

- **Son of Abraham by Sarah's Egyptian slave girl Hagar, born in 1932 B.C.E, his father being 86 years old at the time.**
- **Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children, but she had an Egyptian maidservant and her name was Hagar. (Genesis 16:1)**
- **Hence Sarai said to Abram; Please now! Yehowah has shut me off from bearing children. Please, have relations with my maidservant. Perhaps I may get children from her. So Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. (Genesis 16:2)**
- **Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar, her Egyptian maidservant, at the end of ten years of Abram's dwelling in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her husband as his wife. (Genesis 16:3)**
- **Accordingly he had relations with Hagar, and she became pregnant. When she became aware that she was pregnant, then her mistress began to be despised in her eyes. (Genesis 16:4)**
- **Further Yehowah's angel added to her; Here you are pregnant, and you shall give birth to a son and must call his name **Ishmael**, for Yehowah has heard your affliction. (Genesis 16:11)**
- **As for him, he will become a zebra of a man. His hand will be against everyone, and the hand of everyone will be against him, and before the face of all his brothers he will tabernacle. (Genesis 16:12)**
- **Then she began to call the name of Yehowah, who was speaking to her; You are a God of sight, for she said; Have I here actually looked upon him who sees me? (Genesis 16:13)**
- **That is why the well was called Beerlahairoi. Here it is between Kadesh and Bered. (Genesis 16:14)**
- **Later on Hagar bore to Abram a son and Abram called the name of his son whom Hagar bore **Ishmael**. (Genesis 16:15)**

- And Abram was eighty-six years old at Hagar's bearing **Ishmael** to Abram. (**Genesis 16:16**)
- When informed that Sarah would also have a son from whom, kings of peoples, would come, Abraham petitioned God in behalf of his firstborn.
- After that Abraham said to the true God; O that **Ishmael** might live before you! (**Genesis 17:18**)
- God's reply, after declaring that the future son Isaac would be the covenant heir, was;
- And I will bless her and also give you a son from her, and I will bless her and she shall become nations, kings of peoples will come from her. (**Genesis 17:16**)
- To this God said; Sarah your wife is indeed bearing you a son, and you must call his name Isaac. And I will establish my covenant with him for a covenant to time indefinite to his seed after him. (**Genesis 17:19**)
- But as regards **Ishmael** I have heard you. Look! I will bless him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him very, very much. He will certainly produce twelve chieftains, and I will make him become a great nation. (**Genesis 17:20**)
- **Ishmael** was then circumcised, at the age of 13, along with his father and his father's servants.
- Abraham then proceeded to take **Ishmael** his son and all the men born in his house and everyone purchased with money of his, every male among the men of the household of Abraham, and he went to circumcising the flesh of their foreskins in this very day, just as God had spoken with him. (**Genesis 17:23**)
- And Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he had the flesh of his foreskin circumcised. (**Genesis 17:24**)
- And **Ishmael** his son was thirteen years old when he had the flesh of his foreskin circumcised. (**Genesis 17:25**)
- In this very day Abraham got circumcised, and also **Ishmael** his son. (**Genesis 17:26**)

- And all the men of his household, anyone born in the house and anyone purchased with money from a foreigner, got circumcised with him. (**Genesis 17:27**)
- A year later Isaac was born, **Ishmael** was now 14.
- And Abram was eighty-six years old at Hagar's bearing **Ishmael** to Abram. (**Genesis 16:16**)
- And Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac his son was born to him. (**Genesis 21:5**)
- Five years after that, in **1913 B.C.E.**, on the day of Isaac's being weaned, **Ishmael** was caught, poking fun, at his younger half brother.
- Now the child kept growing and came to be weaned, and Abraham then prepared a big feast on the day of Isaac's being weaned. (**Genesis 21:8**)
- And Sarah kept noticing the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, poking fun. (**Genesis 21:9**)
- This was no innocent child's play on the part of **Ishmael**. Rather, as implied by the next verse in the account, it may have **involved a taunting of Isaac over heirship**.
- The apostle Paul says these events were, a symbolic drama, and shows that the mistreatment of Isaac by the half-blooded Egyptian Ishmael was **persecution**.
- Hence, this was the beginning of the foretold 400 years of Israel's affliction that ended with deliverance from Egyptian bondage in **1513 B.C.E.**
- For example, it is written that Abraham acquired two sons, one by the servant girl and one by the free woman. (**Galatians 4:22**)
- But the one by the servant girl was actually born in the manner of flesh, the other by the free woman through a promise. (**Galatians 4:23**)
- These things stand as a symbolic drama, for these women mean two covenants, the one from Mount Sinai, which brings forth

children for slavery, and which is Hagar. ([Galatians 4:24](#))

- Now this Hagar means Sinai, a mountain in Arabia, and she corresponds with the Jerusalem today, for she is in slavery with her children. ([Galatians 4:25](#))
- But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ([Galatians 4:26](#))
- For it is written: Be glad, you barren woman who does not give birth, break out and cry aloud, you woman who does not have childbirth pains. For the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than those of her who has the husband. ([Galatians 4:27](#))
- Now we, brothers, are children belonging to the promise the same as Isaac was. ([Galatians 4:28](#))
- But just as then the one born in the manner of flesh began persecuting the one born in the manner of spirit, so also now. ([Galatians 4:29](#))
- Nevertheless, what does the Scripture say: Drive out the servant girl and her son, for by no means shall the son of the servant girl be an heir with the son of the free woman. ([Galatians 4:30](#))
- Wherefore, brothers, we are children, not of a servant girl, but of the free woman. ([Galatians 4:31](#))
- And he began to say to Abram; You may know for sure that your seed will become an alien resident in a land not theirs, and they will have to serve them, and these will certainly afflict them for four hundred years. ([Genesis 15:13](#))
- Moreover, God spoke to this effect, that his seed would be alien residents in a foreign land and the people would enslave them and afflict them for four hundred years. ([Acts of Apostles 7:6](#))

See Also ISAAC

- **Ishmael's** demonstration of scorn toward Isaac led to the dismissal of him and his mother from Abraham's household, but not without provisions for their journey.

- Abraham, took bread and a skin water bottle and gave it to Hagar, setting it upon her shoulder, and the child, and then dismissed her.
- So Abraham got up early in the morning and took bread and a skin water bottle and gave it to Hagar, setting it upon her shoulder, and the child, and then dismissed her. And she went her way and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba. ([Genesis 21:14](#))
- Some have interpreted this to mean that **Ishmael**, now 19 years old, was also placed on the back of Hagar, and indeed this is the way some translations read. **JB, Mo, Bagster's LXX**
- Certain scholars, however, consider the phrase, setting it upon her shoulder, as only parenthetical, inserted to explain how the bread and water were carried, and so, if this phrase is placed in parentheses or set off by commas, the difficulty is removed.
- **Professors Keil and Delitzsch** assert that the expression, and the child, depends upon the sentences principal verb **took**, not on the verb **gave** or the word, **setting**.
- This tie-in of the child with took is made by the conjunction and. The thought, therefore, is this; **Abraham took bread and water and gave them to Hagar, placing them on her shoulder, and took the child and also gave it to her.** [**Commentary on the Old Testament, 1973, Vol. I, The First Book of Moses, pp. 244,245**]
- Hagar apparently lost her way in the wilderness of Beer-sheba, and so when the water ran out and **Ishmael** became exhausted, she threw the child under one of the bushes.
- So Abraham got up early in the morning and took bread and a skin water bottle and gave it to Hagar, setting it upon her shoulder, and the child, and then dismissed her. And she went her way and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba. ([Genesis 21:14](#))
- Finally the water became exhausted in the skin bottle and she threw the child under one of the bushes. ([Genesis 21:15](#))
- This expression, threw the child, does not mean **Ishmael** was a baby in arms. The **Hebrew** word **ye'ledh**, child, does not necessarily

refer to an infant, but is often applied to an adolescent boy or a young man.

- Hence, it was said of the youth Joseph, 17 at the time, that he was sold into slavery over Reuben's protest; Do not sin against the child, *bai-ye'ledh*.
- Lamech likewise spoke of a young man *ye'ledh*, as having wounded him.
- Then Reuben answered them, saying; Did not I say to you; Do not sin against the child, but you did not listen? And now his blood, here it is certainly asked back. ([Genesis 42:22](#))
- Consequently Lamech composed these words for his wives Adah and Zillah; Hear my voice, you wives of Lamech; Give ear to my saying; A man I have killed for wounding me, yes, a young man for giving me a blow. ([Genesis 4:23](#))
- However, he left the counsel of the older men with which they had advised him, and he began to take counsel with the young men that had grown up with him, who were the ones attending upon him. ([2 Chronicles 10:8](#))
- Neither does Hagar's act of throwing the child down imply she was carrying him in her arms or on her back, though she was evidently supporting her tired son.
- She apparently withdrew her support suddenly, as did those who brought lame and infirm ones to Jesus and fairly threw them at his feet.
- Then great crowds approached him, having along with them people that were lame, maimed, blind, dumb, and many otherwise, and they fairly threw them at his feet, and he cured them. ([Matthew 15:30](#))
- In accord with the meaning of **Ishmael's** name, God heard his cry for help, provided the necessary water, and allowed him to live to become an archer.
- As a nomadic inhabitant of the Paran Wilderness, he fulfilled the prophecy that said of him,

- At that God heard the voice of the boy, and God's angel called to Hagar out of the heavens and said to her; What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, because God has listened to the voice of the boy there where he is. (**Genesis 21:17**)
- Get up, lift up the boy and take hold of him with your hand, because I shall constitute him a great nation. (**Genesis 21:18**)
- Then God opened her eyes so that she caught sight of a well of water, and she went and began to fill the skin bottle with water and to give the boy a drink. (**Genesis 21:19**)
- And God continued to be with the boy, and he kept growing and dwelling in the wilderness, and he became an archer. (**Genesis 21:20**)
- And he took up dwelling in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother proceeded to take a wife for him from the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 21:21**)
- As for him, he will become a zebra of a man. His hand will be against everyone, and the hand of everyone will be against him, and before the face of all his brothers he will tabernacle. (**Genesis 16:12**)
- Hagar found an Egyptian wife for her son, and he in time fathered 12 sons, chieftains and family heads of the promised, great nation, of **Ishmaelites**. Ishmael also had at least one daughter, Mahalath, who married Esau.
- But as regards **Ishmael** I have heard you. Look! I will bless him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him very, very much. He will certainly produce twelve chieftains, and I will make him become a great nation. (**Genesis 17:20**)
- And he took up dwelling in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother proceeded to take a wife for him from the land of Egypt. (**Genesis 21:21**)
- Now these are the names of the sons of **Ishmael**, by their names, according to their family origins. Ishmael's firstborn Nebaioth and Kedar and Adbeel and Mibsam (**Genesis 25:13**)
- And Mishma and Dumah and Massa. (**Genesis 25:14**)

- Hadad and Tema, Jetur, Naphish and Kedemah. ([Genesis 25:15](#))
- These are the sons of **Ishmael**, and these are their names by their courtyards and by their walled camps, twelve chieftains according to their clans. ([Genesis 25:16](#))
- Hence Esau went to **Ishmael** and took as wife Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael the son of Abraham, the sister of Nebaioth, besides his other wives. ([Genesis 28:9](#))

See Also ISHMAELITE

- At the age of 89 **Ishmael** assisted Isaac in burying their father Abraham. After that he lived another 48 years, dying in **1795 B.C.E.** at the age of 137 years.
- So Isaac and **Ishmael** his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite that is in front of Mamre. ([Genesis 25:9](#))
- The field that Abraham had purchased from the sons of Heth. There Abraham was buried, and also Sarah his wife. ([Genesis 25:10](#))
- And these are the years of **Ishmael's** life, a hundred and thirty-seven years. Then he expired and died and was gathered to his people. ([Genesis 25:17](#))
- There is no record of **Ishmael's** being buried in the cave of Machpelah, the place of burial for Abraham and Isaac, along with their wives.
- After that he commanded them and said to them; I am being gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite. ([Genesis 49:29](#))
- In the cave that is in the field of Machpelah that is in front of Mamre in the land of Canaan, the field that Abraham purchased from Ephron the Hittite for the possession of a burial place. ([Genesis 49:30](#))
- There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

(Genesis 49:31)