

~HAGAR (350)
(Ha'gar)

- Sarah's Egyptian maidservant, later, Abraham's concubine and the mother of Ishmael. While in Egypt because of a famine in the land of Canaan, Abraham, Abram, came to have menservants and maidservants, and it may be that **Hagar** came to be Sarah's maidservant at this time.
- Now a famine arose in the land and Abram made his way down toward Egypt to reside there as an alien, because the famine was severe in the land. (**Genesis 12:10**)
- And he treated Abram well on her account, and he came to have sheep and cattle and asses and menservants and **maidservants** and she-asses and camels. (**Genesis 12:16**)
- Since Sarah, Sarai, remained barren, she requested that Abraham have relations with **Hagar**, giving her to Abraham as his wife. But upon becoming pregnant, **Hagar** began to despise her mistress to such an extent that Sarah voiced complaint to her husband.
- 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**)
- At this Sarai said to Abram; The violence done me be upon you. I myself gave my maidservant over to your bosom, and she became aware that she was pregnant, and I began to be

despised in her eyes. May Yehowah judge between me and you. (**Genesis 16:5**)

- So Abram said to Sarai; Look! Your maidservant is at your disposal. Do to her what is good in your eyes. Then Sarai began to humiliate her so that she ran away from her. (**Genesis 16:6**)
- At the fountain on the way to Shur, Yehowah's angel found **Hagar** and instructed her to return to her mistress and to humble herself under her hand. Moreover, she was told that Yehowah would greatly multiply her seed and that the son to be born to her was to be called Ishmael. Abraham was 86 years old when Ishmael was born.
- Later Yehowah's angel found her at a fountain of waters in the wilderness, at the fountain on the way to Shur. (**Genesis 16:7**)
- And he began to say; **Hagar**, maidservant of Sarai, just where have you come from and where are you going? To this she said; Why, from Sarai my mistress I am running away. (**Genesis 16:8**)
- And Yehowah's angel went on to say to her; Return to your mistress and humble yourself under her hand. (**Genesis 16:9**)
- Then Yehowah's angel said to her; I shall greatly multiply your seed, so that it will not be numbered for multitude. (**Genesis 16:10**)
- 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](#))
- Years later, when Abraham prepared a big feast on the day of Isaac's being weaned at the age of about 5 years, Sarah noticed **Hagar's** son Ishmael, now about 19 years old, poking fun. This was no innocent child's play.
- As implied by the next verse in the account, it may have involved a taunting of Isaac over heirship. Here Ishmael was making early manifestation of the antagonistic traits that Yehowah's angel foretold would be shown by him.
- 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](#))
- Apparently fearing for the future of her son Isaac, Sarah requested Abraham to drive out **Hagar** and her son. This displeased Abraham, but at Yehowah's direction he followed through on his wife's request. Early the next morning he dismissed **Hagar** with her son, giving her bread and a skin water bottle.
- 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](#))
- So she began to say to Abraham; Drive out this slave girl and her son, for the son of this slave girl is not going to be an heir with my son, with Isaac! ([Genesis 21:10](#))
- But the thing proved to be very displeasing to Abraham as regards his son. ([Genesis 21:11](#))
- Then God said to Abraham; Do not let anything that Sarah keeps saying to you be displeasing to you about the boy and about your slave girl. Listen to her voice, because it is by means of Isaac that what will be called your seed will be. ([Genesis 21:12](#))

- And as for the son of the slave girl, I shall also constitute him a nation, because he is your offspring. (**Genesis 21:13**)
- 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**)
- **Hagar** wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. Finally the water became exhausted and she threw the child under one of the bushes. Ishmael's being referred to as a child is not an anachronism, for the **Hebrew** word, *ye'ledh*, here rendered child also means **young man** and is so translated at;
- 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**)
- As to his being thrown under one of the bushes, although it was foretold that he would be a zebra of a man, Ishmael **may not have been very strong as a teenager**.
- 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**)
- Hence he may have given out first, necessitating his mothers supporting him. This would not be inconceivable, for women in those days, especially slave women, were accustomed to carrying heavy burdens in everyday life.
- It seems that in time **Hagar** also gave out, making it necessary for her to withdraw her support from him, depositing him, perhaps somewhat abruptly, under the nearest sheltering bush.
- Hagar herself sat down about the distance of a bowshot, a common Hebrew expression denoting the usual distance at which archers placed their targets, away from her son.
- 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**)
 - Then she went on and sat down by herself, about the distance of a bowshot away, because she said; Let me not see it when the child dies. So she sat down at a distance and began to raise her voice and weep. (**Genesis 21:16**)
 - God's angel then called to **Hagar**, telling her not to be afraid and that Ishmael would be constituted a great nation. Furthermore, God opened her eyes so that she saw a well of water, from which she filled the skin bottle and gave her son a drink.
 - God continued to be with the boy, and in time he became an archer and took up dwelling in the wilderness of Paran. Hagar procured a wife for him from the land of Egypt.
 - 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**)
 - According to the apostle Paul, **Hagar** figured in a symbolic drama in which she represented the nation of fleshly Israel, bound to

Yehowah by the Law covenant inaugurated at Mount Sinai, which covenant brought forth children for slavery.

- **Because of the sinful condition of the people, the nation was unable to keep the terms of that covenant. Under it the Israelites did not become a free people but were condemned as sinners worthy of death, hence, they were slaves.**
- **Jesus answered them; Most truly I say to you, every doer of sin is a slave of sin. (John 8:34)**
- **Therefore those in union with Christ Jesus have no condemnation. (Romans 8:1)**
- **For the Law of that spirit which gives life in union with Christ Jesus has set you free from the Law of sin and of death. (Romans 8:2)**
- **For, there being an incapability on the part of the Law, while it was weak through the flesh, God, by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh. (Romans 8:3)**
- **Jerusalem of Paul's day corresponded to **Hagar**, for Jerusalem the capital, representing the organization of natural Israel, found herself in slavery with her children. Spirit-begotten Christians, though, are children of the Jerusalem above, God's symbolic woman.**
- **This Jerusalem, like Sarah the freewoman, has never been in slavery. But just as Isaac was persecuted by Ishmael, so also the children of the Jerusalem above, who have been set free by the Son, experienced persecution at the hands of the children of enslaved Jerusalem.**
- **However, **Hagar** and her son were driven out, representing Yehowah's casting off natural Israel as a nation.**
- **Tell me, you who want to be under Law, do you not hear the Law? (Galatians 4:21)**
- **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 so Jesus went on to say to the Jews that had believed him; If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. (John 8:31)
- And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (John 8:32)
- They replied to him; We are Abraham's offspring and never have we been slaves to anybody. How is it you say; You will become free? (John 8:33)

- **Jesus answered them; Most truly I say to you, every doer of sin is a slave of sin. (John 8:34)**
- **Moreover, the slave does not remain in the household forever, the son remains forever. (John 8:35)**
- **Therefore if the Son sets you free, you will be actually free. (John 8:36)**
- **I know that you are Abraham's offspring, but you are seeking to kill me, because my word makes no progress among you. (John 8:37)**
- **What things I have seen with my Father I speak, and you, therefore, do the things you have heard from your father. (John 8:38)**
- **In answer they said to him; Our father is Abraham. Jesus said to them; If you are Abraham's children, do the works of Abraham. (John 8:39)**
- **But now you are seeking to kill me, a man that has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. (John 8:40)**