

RIGHT MOTIVE, WRONG METHOD

Title: *The REAL Big Bang, Pt 16*

Series: A Father's Covenant, Pt 4

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ser#3746

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I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

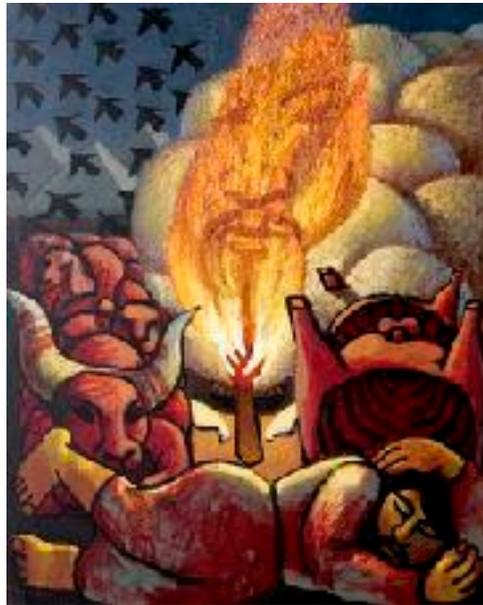
A. In our last study (**Genesis 14**) we looked at **God's covenant with Abram**. What is a covenant? It's a contract, usually between two parties. E.g.: A few weeks ago (actually on my wife's birthday, June 15th), I had the honor of officiating the wedding of Danielle Silverberg and Marc Griess.



(show picture) On that day Marc and Danielle entered into a contract—a one flesh, one-soul relationship that society refers to, since the creation of mankind, as “marriage.”

B. **God's covenant with Abram was different in this major aspect...ONLY God signed it.** The only signature on the contract—which as you recall was a strange one (a heifer, goat, ram and two birds, which God signed with a firepot and torch – **show photo, p2**)

was God's. Here's why? Most contracts in life, including many of God's contracts with man, are conditional. E.g.: Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. But this contract, this agreement, was UNCONDITIONAL. It made no difference what Abram would do, the promise God made to Abram, He (God), was going to keep and bring to fruition...regardless of what Abram did or didn't do.



What was God's promise? To give Abram's seed the Promised Land. I said last week that much of this Promised Land is currently possessed by Israel. Correction! Most of this land Israel does not

possess. Here's the present picture. [\(show photo\)](#)

C. What is the promise you/I heard from God?

Was it conditional, that is, you and God both played a

part in its fulfillment? If so...He'll not blow His part. If you've blown yours, then:

Go back to the spot where you signed the agreement—reconcile. Repent. Start anew. Keep your part of the bargain; He'll keep His.

D. Let's pray!

II. GENESIS *CHAPTER 16* — RIGHT MOTIVE, WRONG METHOD

A. Our text

Genesis 16: 1-6

Hagar and Ishmael

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian [servant] named Hagar; **2** so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my [servant]; perhaps I can build a family through her."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. **3** So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian [servant] Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. **4** He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. **5** Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my [servant] in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."

6 "Your [servant] is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her. *[servant] literally "slave"

B. Examining the text

1. In a sense this is a strange occurrence. (Have you ever seen the show on FOX business network, “Strange Inheritances with Jamie Colby?” Quite fascinating.) Well, this seems like a strange occurrence and out of line with the previous narrative. We just read where “Abram believed God and it was credited as righteousness.” *Gen 15:6*
2. Is this a lapse of faith? Did God really mean from Abram’s loins and Sarai’s womb they were going to have a child? Abram’s 85 and Sarai’s 75.
3. Maybe God needed a little help. Doesn’t God help those who help themselves?

ILLUSTRATION: I see it so many times; I see it in my own life: *right motive – wrong method*. In more cases than not it’s born out of frustration and impatience.

Here’s the cycle (show chart):

Abram’s *Motive*—I will do the will of the LORD.

Abram’s *Frustration*—Sarai’s barrenness

Abram’s *Behavior*—Why not Hagar? Wrong method.

Abram’s *Goal*—To produce godly seed.

OBSERVATION: In almost every case the opportunity to accomplish God’s will is right in front of us (as it was in the case of Sarai). But we don’t accept His will because it requires waiting. Patience. And waiting seems illogical. Sarai: “*It can’t be me. I’m seventy-five and Abram’s 85.*”

Hagar is young and beautiful and has the energy to care for a child. I don't have that kind of energy anymore. I'm going to breast feed at my age? I believe God, but ... this miracle isn't happening through me. Impossible!"

Did we forget that is God's specialty—doing the impossible?

C. One other interesting insight: Who initiated the “*wrong method?*” Sarai. Who initiated the “wrong behavior” in the Garden? Eve. My point isn't to cast a disparaging shadow on the woman, just the opposite. It's to say: *“What happened to the man who was called to be the provider, protector and priest of his home?”* Just as it was Adam's position and place to say “no” to Eve, it was Abram's position and place to say “no” to Sarai. Scripture is clear: **“As the man is the head of the home, so Christ is the head of the Church.”**
Ephesians 5:23

Before God instituted the government or ordained the Church, He put together a man and woman and blessed them. At the very beginning of things, God defined the man's and the woman's roles. When we mess with His order of things everything gets messed up—families, churches and government.

Of even greater consequence is when the man fails to fulfill his role—as important as a mother is to a home (and where we would be without mothers?) there is no greater cornerstone to stability than what the man brings to the home, community, church and country. It

doesn't make him smarter or more important; it simply keeps God's order of things 'in order' and 'running smoothly'. Just as the home needs a mother, the home needs a father—and both need to live up to their God-given roles and responsibilities as defined in Solomon's proverbs and Paul's letters to the church.

D. Hagar – Pride the Ultimate Destroyer

4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

When we put someone down, in actuality, what are we doing? Lifting ourselves up? Thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought? (**Romans 12:3**). It's dangerous soil. It's the land upon which Satan trod—and it was quicksand.

NOTE: I'm sure Hagar had heard of God's promise to Abram. Now, she's thinking—I am God's provision for the plan, not Sarai. And at that moment in time, she looked at her authority, Sarai, with contempt, not respect, just like Satan looked at God with contempt, not respect.

(Note I said, "at that moment in time." I believe the text reveals a different Hagar later in the narrative. Remember, she's probably a young girl—with a lot to learn. And she had been placed in a position beyond her years of learning/wisdom. She will get there.) Listen to the words of the wise man in ***Proverbs 30:21-23***.

21 There are three things that make the earth tremble—
no, four it cannot endure:

22 a slave who becomes a king,
 an overbearing fool who prospers,
 23 a bitter woman who finally gets a husband,
a servant girl who supplants her mistress.

*emphasis mine

THIS TRUTH NOT ONLY HOLDS TRUE HERE, BUT EVERYWHERE:

- 1) Job/Place of Business (Fletcher Christian supplanting Captain Bligh—Mutiny on the Bounty)
- 2) Kingdom of God (Lucifer trying to supplant God)
- 3) Church (Someone placed in a supportive role, like Hagar, believes he/she has the right to the lead role, Sarai's.)
- 4) Government (I think this is the worst of the worst—we see it everyday—people wanting power and position that is not theirs. It's ugly and creates nothing but division and hatred. The present two party system feeds the hatred and gridlock and the American people suffer. Enough said!)

III. HAGAR & JEHOVAH, A LOVING GOD

Genesis 16: 7-16

7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. 8 The angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?”

“I’m running away from my mistress, Sarai,” she replied.

9 The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.” **10** Then he added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.”

A. Let’s not miss this lesson/truth. Many people have difficulty being in what the world sees as a “secondary” position. Grasp this! If it’s the position God has given you or put you in, it’s not secondary, it’s primary. It doesn’t work without you. It’s God’s order of things. It’s what ...

1. Joshua was to Moses
2. Elisha was to Elijah
3. Joab was to King David
4. The disciples were to Jesus
5. Silas was to St Paul
6. The front line is to a quarterback (A quarterback will seldom win if he does not have a good offensive line.)
7. Oil and gas is to a combustible engine. **(show photo, p9)** The engine is useless without gas and oil.

**WHAT’S THE
SUBSTANCE OF THIS
ILLUSTRATION?**

Whatever God has called you to, no matter how your peers see it, what you do is



significant to God's order of things. Be content. Do your best. If God wants to move you from second to first, or third to second, let **Him** do it, not you. He moved Joshua. He moved Elisha. He moved the Twelve—all in His timing, which was perfect.

B. In spite of her insurrection, God loved Hagar.

(Just like God loved Abram and Sarai even though they had a lapse of faith, and got ahead of His plan. We all blow it at one time or another; there are few exceptions.)

11 And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the LORD has heard your cry of distress. **12** This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.”

NOTE! That is why there will NEVER be peace in the Middle East until Messiah sets up His kingdom.

13 Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the LORD, who had spoken to her. She said, “You are the God who sees me.”^a She also said, “Have I truly seen the One who sees me?” **14** So that well was named Beer-lahai-roi (which means “well of the Living One who sees me”). It can still be found between Kadesh and Bered.

C. Three brief, final points. (They wouldn't be brief if time permitted. LOL!)

1. Hagar, an Egyptian, is representational of the world. The most famous verse in the entire Bible tells us, **"For God so loved the world."** *John 3:16*
2. Hagar cries out (prays) to Jehovah and He sends an angel to rescue her. (v7) **When has God ever turned away an honest, desperate heart's cry to Him? Never!**

INVITATION TO SALVATION: Are you saved? Have you cried out to Him for forgiveness of sin? Have you received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? **DO IT TODAY!** (Say a short sinner's prayer. Those who prayed fill out the Giving Envelope and check the FTD block. "In a moment you'll have a chance to hand it in.")

Let's close with this promise, *Psalm 145:17-20*

17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways and faithful in all He does.

18 The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth (integrity).

19 He fulfills the desires of those who fear Him; He hears their cry and saves them.

20 The LORD watches over all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.

3. When trouble or disaster comes our way, we have two choices:
 - a. We can turn away from God or
 - b. We can seek God.

Hagar chose to seek God, and her reward was great.

D. What will your choice be: Turn away from Him or seek Him?

Open the Altar. For those who desire to “seek Him,” have them first mark the date in their Calendar (phone or daily) by putting in one word, “**seek.**” Then have those who have chosen to “seek Him” **come forward** and place one word on the Platform/Altar—“seek” with the date (June 30 or July 1). They can remain in His presence or take His presence with them.

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