

Faith and Failure

Abraham—part 7

July 19, 2026

Genesis 16:1-16

Reviewing our series on Abraham:

- Week 1: Faith's beginnings (Canaan)
- Week 2: Faith's Tent and Altar (Centering metaphors)
- Week 3: Faith's Choices : (Considerations)
- Week 4: Faith's Fight (Core battles: inner/ outer)
- Week 5: Faith's Promises (Cementing: anchoring)
- Week 6: Faith's Covenant

The proposal of the flesh

Genesis 16:1a Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children....

Genesis 16:1b But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; 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 slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife.

- Presumption
- Proud assertion
- Justified selfishness

Petulance of the flesh

Raw human nature analyzed

Genesis 16:4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

- **Abraham's sins**

Genesis 16:4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

Adulterer: he violated his marriage covenant

- Abdicated his **responsibility**.

Genesis 16:6 “**Your** slave is in your hands,” Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.” Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

- **Sarah’s sins**

Genesis 16:1b But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, “**The Lord has kept me** from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.”

Genesis 16:5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “**You are responsible** for the wrong **I am suffering**. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, **she despises me**. May **the Lord judge** between you and me.”

-Blame-shifting

-Irresponsibility

-Blind unreasonableness

-Harshness

-Rebellion

-Desire for revenge:

Genesis 16:4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

- **Hagar’s sins**

Genesis 16:4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to **despise** her mistress.

-Adulteress

-Resentment

-Rebellion

Genesis 16:4 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 slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, **she despises me**. May the Lord judge between you and me.”

Genesis 16:6 “Your slave is in your hands,” Abram said. “Do with her whatever you think best.” Then Sarai mistreated **Hagar**; **so she fled from her**.

Provision of God's grace

Genesis 16:7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

*Genesis 16:8 And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?"
"I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.*

Genesis 16:9 Then the angel of the Lord told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her."

Genesis 16:10 The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count." ¹¹ The angel of the Lord also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery.

Genesis 16:12 "He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

What is the effect of the angel of the Lord's words?

Genesis 16:13 She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." ¹⁴ That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

*Genesis 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had born.
¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.*