

# Genesis 15-16 – Lesson 26

## Abram's Prophecy and Hagar

### 1. 15:7-21 – God's Oath and Covenant

- a. Abram asks for a surety, God gives a covenant – Jer 34:18, Deu 11:29, Deu 27:12-13
- b. Every animal here is also used in the law sacrifices given to Israel later.
- c. “*smoking furnace/burning lamp*” – images of God's presence – Exo 19:18; but also Israel's deliverance from Egypt and their future salvation – Deu 4:20/Isa 62:1
- d. There is nothing to bind Abram in this oath, God passed through it.
- e. 15:18 – “*have I given this land*” – which is a change from Gen 12:7, 13:15

### 2. 15:12-16 – Abram's Prophecy

- a. The last time a deep sleep fell on someone it was Adam in Gen 2:21
- b. The horror is that his seed will be afflicted four hundred years outside the land
- c. This is a prophecy about Egypt and the Exodus which is literally fulfilled
- d. 15:15 – “*fathers in peace*” – Abram is promised special protection and long life
- e. God's purpose is not only a matter of power and promise, but also timing.
- f. It was only after much patience that he obtains, and then dies – Heb 6:15, 11:13,39

### 3. 16:1-6

- a. Gen 15 describes God's provision; Gen 16 describes man's failure. (cf. Gen 2-3)
- b. We are introduced to Hagar and Ishmael – Abram's wife and son, also in Gen 21.
- c. There is an emphasis on their positions: Hagar is the Egyptian maid – Gal 4:22-23
- d. 16:2- Neither Sarai or Abram consulted God about this; impatience is unbelief.
  - i. They were tired of waiting on the Lord, but they were supposed to – Isa 64:4
  - ii. You don't have to wait, God's will is revealed – 1 Cor 2:9-10, 16
- e. “*Abram hearkened*” – the last time this happened without God was Gen 3:17
- f. 16:4 – “*mistress was despised*” – instead of honoring her because she was her mistress
- g. 16:5 – Like Eve Sarai shifts the blame, and like Adam Abram shirks responsibility

### 4. 16:7-16

- a. A lonely sinner found water (and the Lord) in the wilderness, sounds familiar.
- b. The angel asks questions like God did in Gen 3 and Gen 4 to Adam and Cain.
- c. 16:9 – “*return unto thy mistress and submit*” – does the Bible teach slavery?
  - i. The law released slaves every 7 years/70<sup>th</sup> year, and forbids stealing people to sell – Deu 24:7; Laws in Israel would abolish slavery in Israel – Lev 25:10
  - ii. God's Israel buying heathen was his plan to end violence and slavery
- d. Hagar was with child and God was providing provision for her through Abram
- e. 16:10-12 – Hagar is given a blessing and a prophecy about Ishmael = God that hears
  - i. Hagarenes are opposed to Israel in Psa 83:6, 1 Chron 5:10, but not in Gen 16.
- f. We know Ishmael's future, but we cannot punish the mother for the children.
  - i. Williams is wrong to say that he should never have been born.
  - ii. Ishmael will be a wild man, and against all men, but here he is Abram's son.