
Abram, Hagar,
Ishmael


Do you
trust God?



Where is my promise? (Sarai's decision to take the promise into her own hands)
Trust God
Patience
Is God trustworthy?

Abram trust God?
Sarai trust God?
Both of them would say - Yes we trust God. But MAYBE we should do this…
Abram says, that's a good idea.

It's a common tradition with the tribes in the area. It sounds pretty wrong to us nowadays (though saying that, surrogate childbearing is on the rise)

Genesis 16 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. 2 And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children[a] by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. 3 So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.

But they forgot : I will make your name great. I will bless you. I will make you a great nation. What did GOD say to them previously

Doesn't this sound really similar to Adam & Eve?



Trusting God means trusting in His word — that the things he's called us to do, the way he's called us to live, the things we've been asked to stand up for — these are right.

That's why we choose not to live a certain way. Because we are chosen for a certain life.
That's the TRUST.



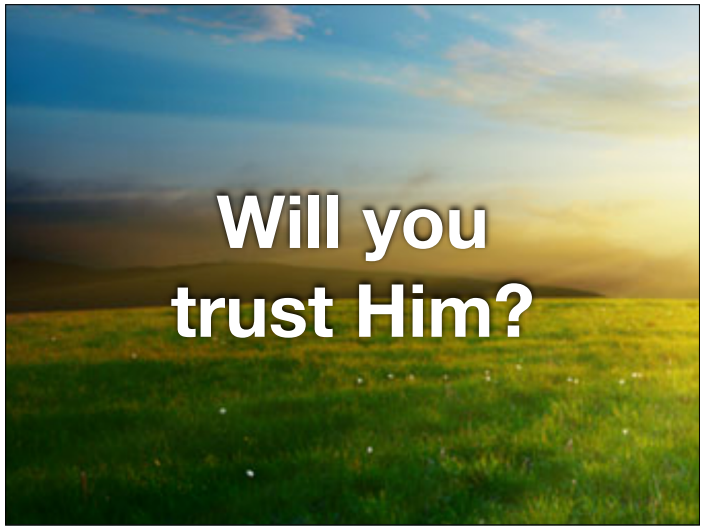
If we then look at what God calls for us to be, it's a question of trust.

Has he proved himself faithful?

Has he proved himself trustworthy?

Has he proved himself good?

He doesn't have to prove these things — because He is. And He has proved it, ultimately through Jesus Christ.



Will you trust Him?

If He is trustworthy, then our trust of Him should be straightforward.

If we've ever been let down by someone else, if we've ever found that we can't trust others, then we turn to the one who's name is Faithful & True Rev 19:11

Revelation 19:11

[The Rider on a White Horse] Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.


Hagar,
Sarai,
Abram



We see that in the process of stealing blessings, though on one hand it “seems” to be right, the reality is that it’s a lot worse than we thought.



1. Hagar — pride, that she can have children and she's borne Abram an heir.
2. **She was a slave, and this child gave her pride.**
    1. she was woman. this was her power.

her language is more than just pride actually, she curses sarai — the word is the same as God's promise to Abram — to those who bless you I will bless, to those who curse you I will curse Genesis 16:4 And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.



Sarai — bitterness from inability to have children, angry at Hagar
Blaming Abram for it, and then accusing Him

5 And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!”

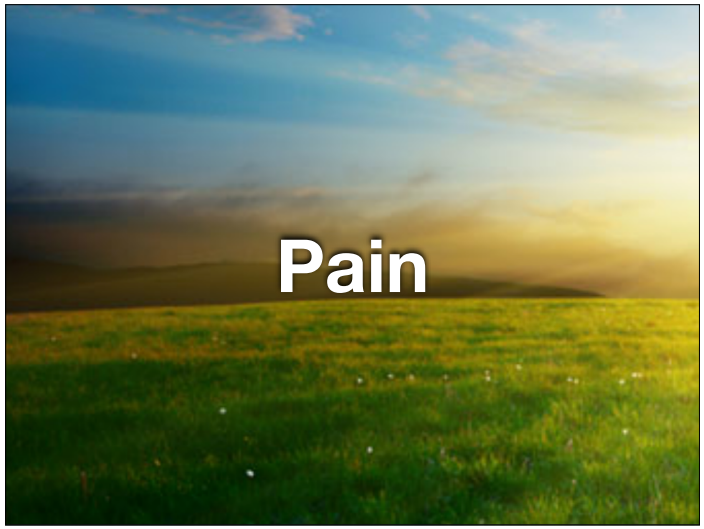
She’s bitter about not being able to conceive.
She’s bitter about her plan not working out the way she thought it would
She’s bitter at Abram for the situation

There seems to be unresolved issues between Abram and Sarai — blame, hurt, years of disappointment and frustration



Abram — not my problem (absolve responsibility)

6 But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.”



Mental, emotional, physical pain being brought against one another.

And in the end Hagar runs away to die.

Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.



We see that in the process of stealing blessings, though on one hand it “seems” to be right, the reality is that it’s a lot worse than we thought.



She was a slave, and this child gave her pride.
God said, it's not by your power. For I am Lord,

1. The God who sees.
    1. Not just what's in her situation.
    2. Not just in her life
    3. Sees her heart
    4. Sees her trouble

7 The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur.
8 And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said,
"I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." 9 The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and
submit to her." 10 The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they
cannot be numbered for multitude." 11 And the angel of the Lord said to her,
"Behold, you are pregnant
and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name Ishmael,[c]
because the Lord has listened to your affliction.
12 He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and everyone's hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

**13 So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing",[d] for she said,
"Truly here I have seen him who looks after me."[e] 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi;
[f] it lies between Kadesh and Bered.**

15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.
16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.



Sarai, who couldn't bear children. God tells her that she will.
And she laughs.
A laugh of bitterness.
Ha! As if. Cynacism. Doubt. Realist? The lack of faith in God, more like it.

A woman who cannot bear children feels as if she's been cursed. The womb is closed up, she's approached menopause, there's no chance for her. And so she laughs.

Genesis 18:9 They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." 10 The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" 13 The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' **14 Is anything too hard for the Lord?** At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." 15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh", for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

This is the God who sees.
The God who sees lives, hearts, past, present, and future.

He takes her, and says, I will give, this blessing is not by your own power, or your own goodness, or your own grace — but by the hand of God alone. Salvation comes from the hand of God alone, so that no one can boast.

He also does a second thing — he changes her name from Sarai to Sarah. They both mean princess. But one was given by her earthly father, and what God is inviting her to do, is to be a child under His blessing. That she would take hold of her name and be a princess under God.

God wants to redefine her.
But she wants to hold onto the hurt. Hold onto the pain.
Even after Isaac is born and her womb is opened.



Abram – name changed to Abraham
Abram — exalted father

1. Abraham — Father of multitudes
2. Circumcision — belonging to God — circumcise yourself and the men. And he obeys

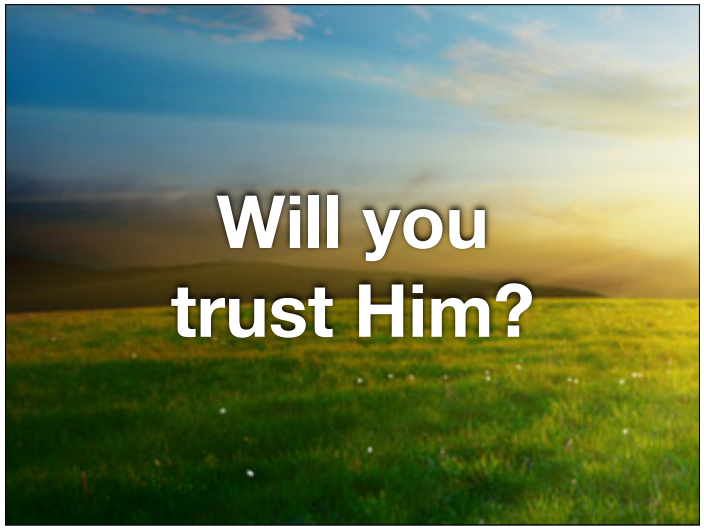
Genesis 17:10 This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. 12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised. Every male throughout your generations, whether born in your house or bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring, 13 both he who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money, shall surely be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant. 14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

3. Promise of a Son
    a. why not just use ishmael
        1. God is still faithful to Ishamel
        2. Blessed to be father of many nations
            a. not the child of promise
            b. but still a child of blessing
    b. he laughs too - haha, impossible!



God's plan is in motion and trustworthy.
And this family, broken, unable to trust one another, and yet God is inviting them to be transformed and redefined.
To be renamed, and rebuilt,
healed and restored.

Do you trust Him?
Obey his commands.



God's plan is in motion and trustworthy.
And this family, broken, unable to trust one another, and yet God is inviting them to be transformed and redefined.
To be renamed, and rebuilt,
healed and restored.
Your life.
Your name.
Your family.
Your job.
Your studies.
Will you trust Him?
LIVE AS HE ASKS?
Lay down your pride?
Surrender your bitterness?
Accept his responsibility?