



DAUGHTER IN WAITING

MINISTRY

Genesis 16

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Study Notes

- **What does Genesis 16:1 tell us about the state Sarai was in and how it influenced her thinking?**
- **The role of a 'helpmate' plays a significant part in Genesis 16,**
 - How did Sarai influence Abram?
 - Was their method of conceiving made in or outside of God's will?
 - Who did this decision negatively impact apart from Sarai?
- **Sarai took matters into her own hands by using her servant, Hagar, to bear her children,**
 - Did Sarai try to take control of God's promise made to Abram in Genesis 15:1-5?
 - What part(s) did Abram play in Sarai's plan to conceive?
 - How do Sarai and Abram's actions in this text compare to the actions of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 during the fall of man?
- **Genesis 16:3 says that after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai took Hagar and gave Hagar to Abram,**
 - Did the couple set a time limit for God's promises to come to pass in their lives?
 - In what ways do we set time limits for God and take matters into our own hands when his plans for us don't come to pass when we want them to?
- **What were the consequences of Sarai and Abram's actions in this text? What resulted from their impatience?**
 - What does this show about the rippled effect our actions can have on our loved ones or those around us?
- **Can we judge who suffered the 'most' in this text?**
 - If yes or no, how so and why?
- **Genesis 2 says that spouses become 'one' in marriage, can one spouse be more to blame than the other in this text? Why or why not?**
- **How did Abram decide to handle Sarai's plan backfiring on them in Genesis 16:5-7?**
- **What prophecy did the angel of the Lord give to Hagar?**
 - What is the significance of the name Ishmael?
- **What name did Hagar give to the Lord? Why?**
- **How old was Abram when Ishmael was born?**
 - According to Genesis 12:4, how old was Abram when God promised he would be the descendant of many nations?

Reflection

Abram was 75 years old when the promise was made in Genesis 12:4 and 85 when Ishmael was born in Genesis 16:16. Ishmael was not the fulfillment of the promise but a result of Sarai and Abram taking matters into their own hands. They still had more years to go until God's promise would be fulfilled in their lives.

What does this text teach us about the importance of being patient while waiting on God? What are some doubts that can creep up as we wait? How should we handle these doubts?