

# BIBLE STUDY

11/21/13

## Hagar's Story Twice Told

### Genesis 16

Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian-woman, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as a wife for him. He came in to Hagar, and she became pregnant. But when she saw that she was pregnant, her mistress became light-worth in her eyes. Sarai said to Abram: The wrong done me is upon you! I myself gave my maid into your bosom, but now that she sees that she is pregnant, I have become of light-worth in her eyes. May Yahweh see-justice-done between me and you!

Abram said to Sarai: Here, your maid is in your hand, deal with her however seems good in your eyes. Sarai afflicted her, so that she had to flee from her. But Yahweh's messenger/angel found her by a spring/eye of water in the wilderness, by the spring/eye on the way to Shur. He said: Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence do you come, whither are you going? She said: I am fleeing from Sarai my mistress.

Yahweh's messenger said to her: Return to your mistress and let yourself be afflicted under her hand! And Yahweh's messenger said to her: I will make your seed many, yes, many, it will be too many to count! And Yahweh's messenger said to her: Here, you are pregnant, you will bear a son; call his name Ishmael/God Hears, for God has heard your being afflicted.... Now she called the name of Yahweh, the one who was speaking to her; You God of Seeing! For she said: Have I actually gone on seeing here after His seeing me? Therefore the well was called: Well of the Living-One Who-Sees-Me.

### Genesis 21

Once Sara saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian-woman, laughing.... She said to Abraham: Drive out this slave-woman and her son, for the son of this slave-woman shall not share-inheritance with my son, with Isaac! The matter was exceedingly evil in Abraham's eyes because of his son. But God said the Abraham: Do not let it be evil in your eyes concerning the lad and concerning your slave-woman; in all that Sara says to you, hear her voice, for it is through Isaac that seed will be called by your (name). But also the son of the slave-woman—a nation will I make of him, for he too is your seed.

Abraham started early in the morning, he took some bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar—placing them upon her shoulder—together with the child and sent her away. She went off and roamed in the wilderness of Beer-Sheva. Now when the water in the skin was at an end, she threw the child under one of the bushes, and went and sat by herself, at a distance, as far away as a bowshot, for she said to herself: Let me not see the child die! So she sat at a distance, and lifted up her voice and wept. But God heard the voice of the lad, God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her: What ails you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the lad there where he is. Arise, lift up the lad and grasp him with your hand, for a great nation will I make of him! God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; she went, filled the skin with water, and gave the lad to drink. And God was with the lad as he grew up....

**NARRATOR:** Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her. And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. But his mother answered and spoke.

**ELIZABETH:** No indeed; but he shall be called John.

**NEIGHBORS:** There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name.

**NARRATOR:** And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. And he asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished. And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he *began* to speak in praise of God. Fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. All who heard them kept them in mind.

**ALL WHO HEARD:** What then will this child *turn out to be*?

**NARRATOR:** For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied.

**ZACHARIAS:** Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel,  
For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,  
<sup>69</sup> And has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
In the house of David His servant—  
<sup>70</sup> As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—  
<sup>71</sup> Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES,  
And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US;  
<sup>72</sup> To show mercy toward our fathers,  
And to remember His holy covenant,  
<sup>73</sup> The oath which He swore to Abraham our father,  
<sup>74</sup> To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies,  
Might serve Him without fear,  
<sup>75</sup> In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.  
<sup>76</sup> "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS;  
<sup>77</sup> To give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation  
By the forgiveness of their sins,  
<sup>78</sup> Because of the tender mercy of our God,  
With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us,  
<sup>79</sup> TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH,  
To guide our feet into the way of peace."

**NARRATOR:** And the child continued to grow and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Zacharias' Benedictus

<sup>68</sup> "Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished **redemption for His people,**

<sup>69</sup> And has raised up a **horn of salvation** for us  
In the house of David His servant—

<sup>70</sup> As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—

<sup>71</sup> **Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US;**

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And **to remember His holy covenant,**

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Might serve Him without fear,

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With which the **Sunrise** from on high will visit us,

<sup>79</sup> **TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH,**

To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me.

Psalms 105:8, 9 He has remembered His covenant forever...The covenant which He made with Abraham.

Genesis 22:16-17 By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed...

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

Isaiah 9:2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

Psalms 106:10 (Speaking about what happened at the Red Sea crossing) So Yahweh saved them from the hand of the one who hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.

Malachi 4:2 But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in his wings..

Psalms 18:2 Yahweh...is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

## Zacharias' and Simeone's Song and its Relationship to Isaiah

### Zacharias' Song

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel...

And you, child (John)...will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways; to give to His people the knowledge of salvation... To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

### Angels' Song

Luke 2:10-14

Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people...Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.

### Simeone's Song

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation, <sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel."

### Isaiah

9:2 (Concerning Galilee of the Gentiles):The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

42:6 I am Yahweh, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations.

49:6 Yahweh says to Israel, "I will make you a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

51:4 Pay attention to Me, O My people...I will set My justice for a light of the peoples/gentiles; The (gentile) coastlands will hope for Me, and for My arm they will hope expectantly.

60:1-3 Arise, shine; for your light has coe, and the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you and His glory will appear upon you (Israel). Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your rising.