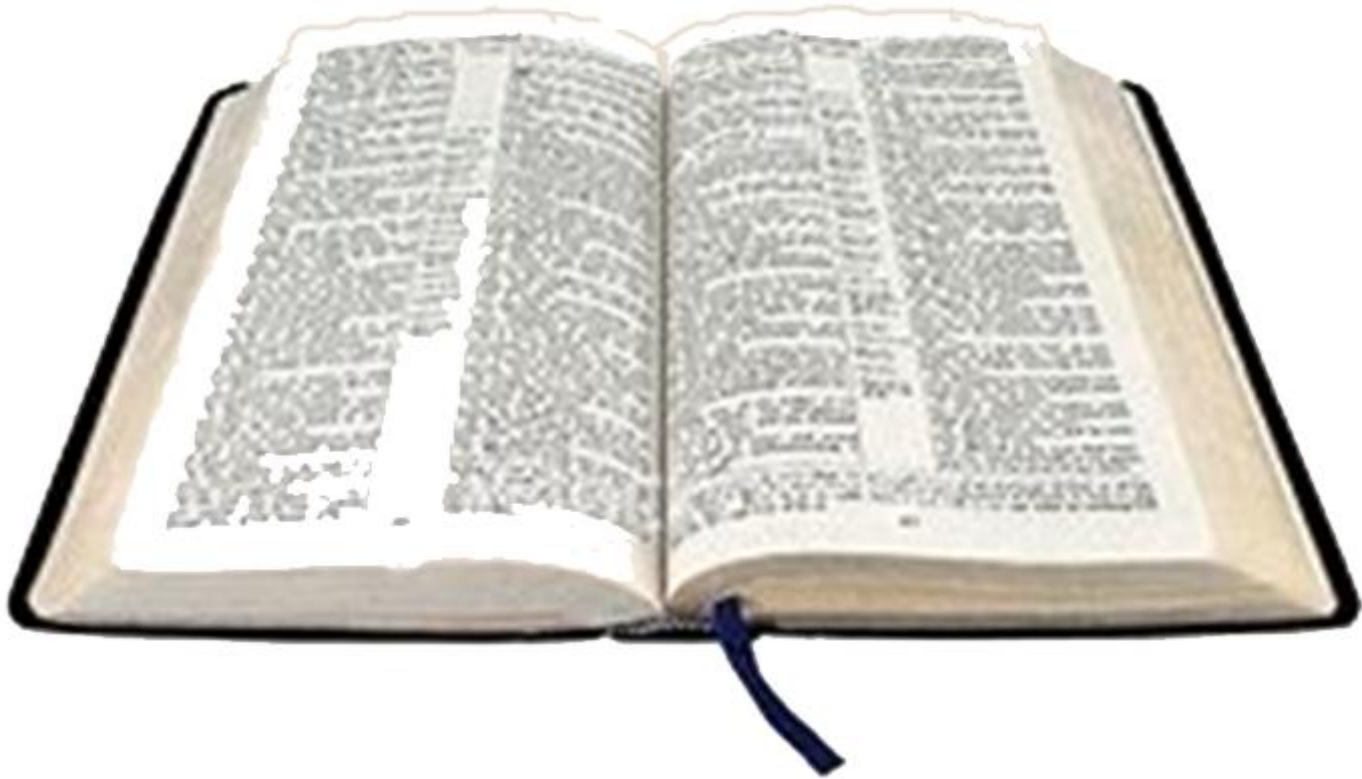


**What often follows great blessings?**



# Genesis 16:1-16



Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children.



**Something missing ?**

But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar;



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."



**She believed the promise !**

Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

Abram listened to the voice of Sarai



Hindsight is a wonderful luxury we don't have at the time.

Did he pray about it ?

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.



**Beware of short-cuts !**

He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.



**Who had the infertility problem ?**



When she knew she was pregnant,  
she began to despise her mistress.

## **Bad attitude**



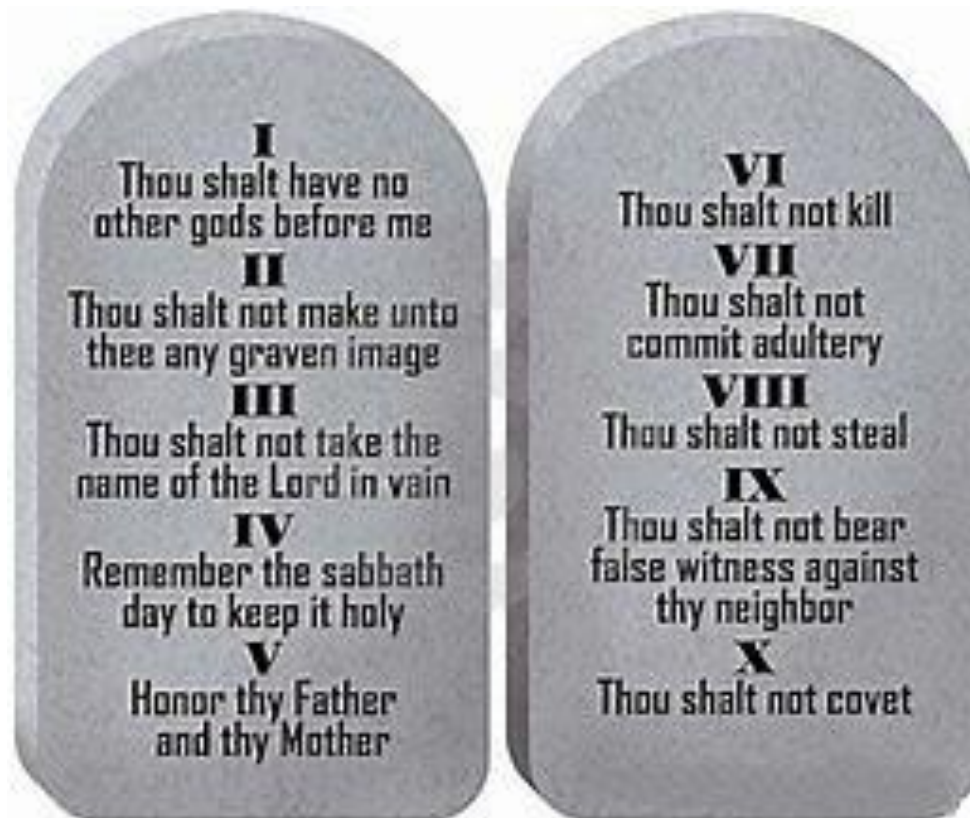
Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me."



When things go wrong – the gentle lady .....

Sarai said to Abram,  
"May the LORD judge between you and me."

**One sin leads to another.  
She didn't have them but ....**



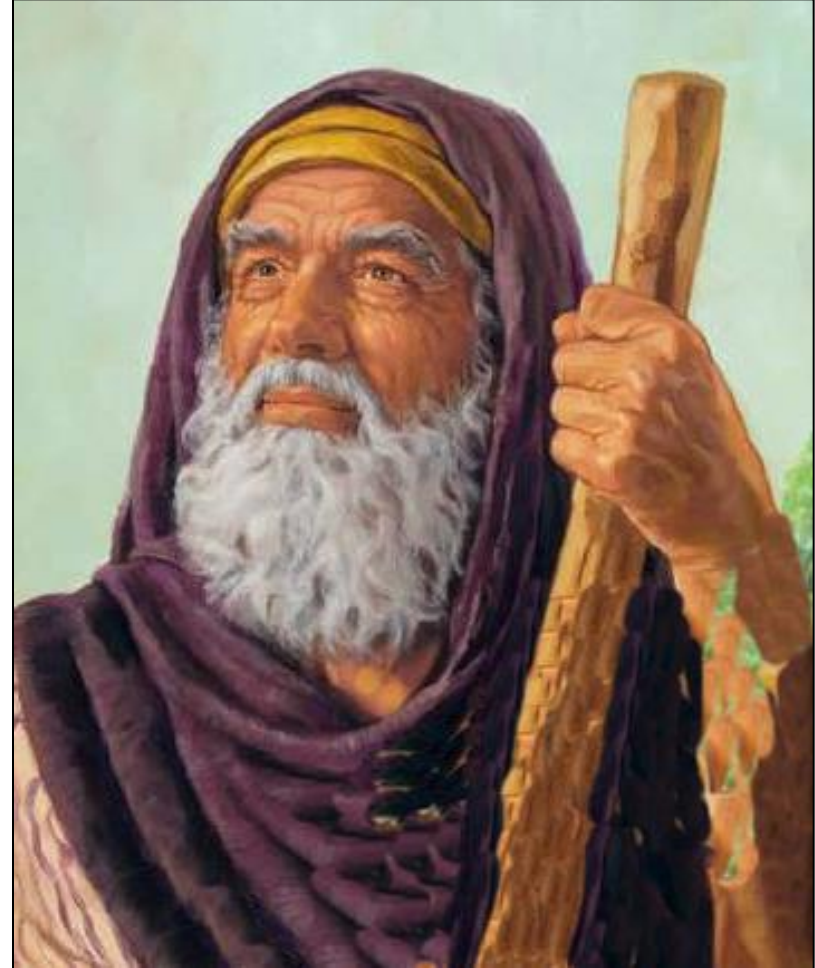
"Your slave is in your hands," Abram said.  
"Do with her whatever you think best."

## **Abram not at his best !**

Tries to avoid the issue

Denies Hagar is his wife.

Abdicates his role as husband.



**What do you think he should have done ?**



Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

Jealousy



The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.



The LORD finds his sheep heading back to Egypt



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.



**He obviously knows, so why does he ask her ?**

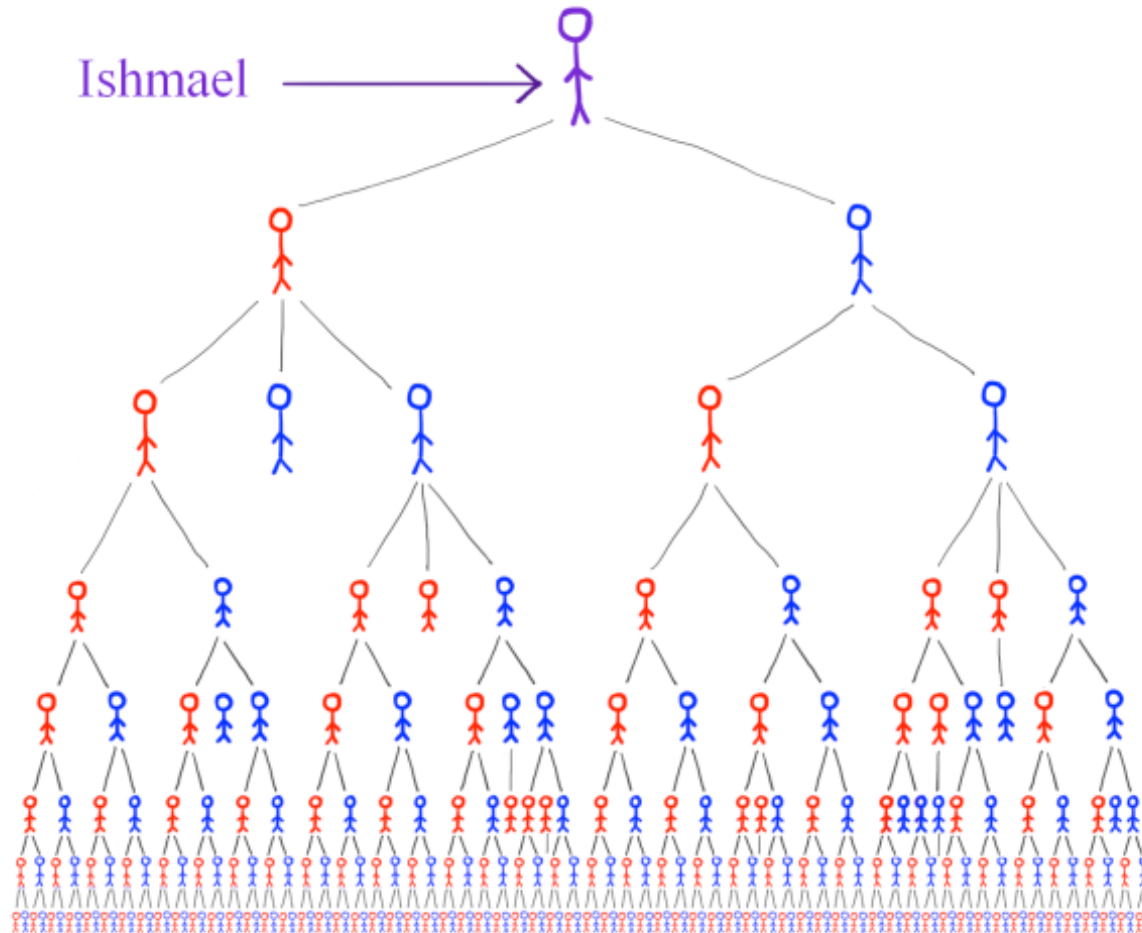
Then the angel of the LORD told her,  
"Go back to your mistress and submit to her."



**Your mistress ?    Submit (pride problem)**



The angel **added**, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."



**Look who is talking !**

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."

**Ishmael means  
“God hears”**

**What a name !**

**A constant reminder**

the LORD has heard of your misery –  
and will do something about it.



He will be a wild donkey of a man;

"Who let the wild donkey go free?  
Who untied its ropes? I gave it the wasteland as its home, the salt flats as its habitat. It laughs at the commotion in the town; it does not hear a driver's shout. It ranges the hills for its pasture and searches for any green thing.  
Job 39: 5-8



**An honourable description !**

his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers.

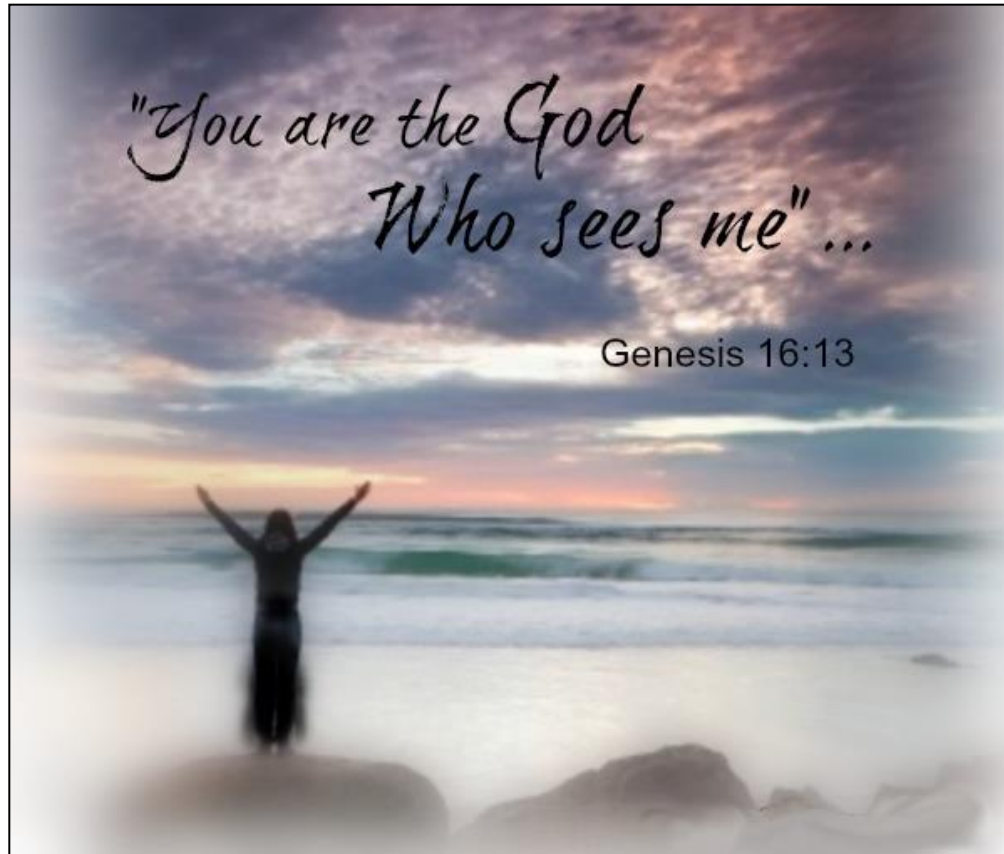


**Relationship issues for him and his descendants**



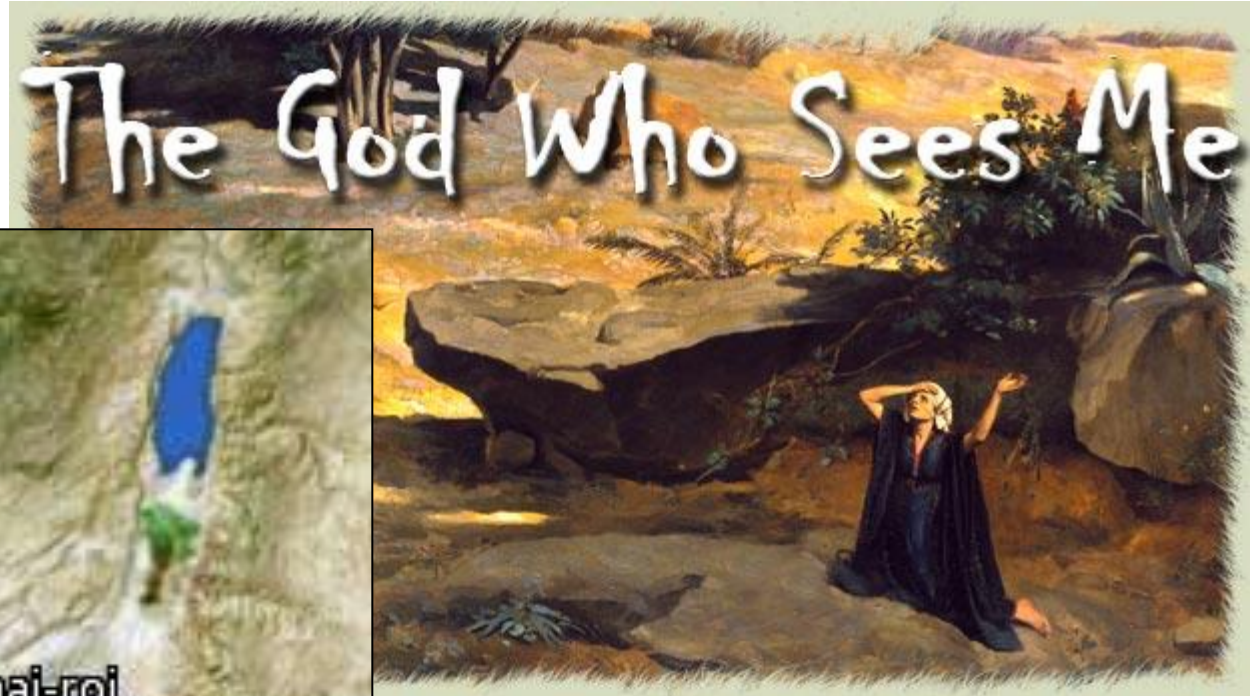
(Hagar) gave this name to **the LORD who spoke to her:**  
"You are the God who sees me,"  
for she said, "**Have I** now seen the One who sees me?"

El roi



God who I have seen

That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi;  
it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.



## **Beer Lahai Roi**

“The well of the seeing alive”

“The well of the living one who sees me”

So Hagar bore Abram a son,  
and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.



**What did Abram and Sarah and Hagar think ?**



Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.



**God is still at work**



# What can we learn from this part of Abram's life?

Another bad mistake  
(there are consequences)

Good ideas aren't always God's ideas (pray!)

God's plan continues

God's great grace

