

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

RELATIONSHIPS THAT PLEASE GOD

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PART 2B: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

UNBELIEF CREATES STRIFE

It is obvious that Sarai did not have the same amount of faith in God like Abram, because when the promise of a child did not materialize, she decided that God was not able to make her pregnant and decided to act on her own. She waited for ten years but her faith ran out, she followed the same pattern set by Eve and enticed Abram to have sex with her handmaiden and make her pregnant.

Abram and Sarai failed this test because Abram listened to his wife instead of God! **Genesis 16:1-2**

Sarai and Abram had disregarded God's command that a man should only have one wife, not multiple wives. **Genesis 2:24**

In order to make the sordid affair look legal, Sarai gave Hagar to Abram as a second wife. **Genesis 16:3**

Hagar had been a slave, but when she found out that she was pregnant with Abram's heir, she felt contempt for Sarai and the demons of strife announced their presence. **verse 4**

Sarai had created a monster in Hagar that couldn't be controlled and went to Abram and laid the blame on him. **verse 5**

Instead of taking charge of his family, Abram handed Hagar back to Sarai and told her to physically punish Hagar in order to bring her back into line. **verse 6**

Abram disobeyed God and gave his wife too much free reign.

Sarai had no faith in God and made a mess of things. Instead of taking responsibility; her true character came forth as a bitter and angry woman, who felt cheated by both God and Hagar.

Just like Adam's and Eve's transgression cursed mankind for eternity, so the sin of Abram and Sarai is still with us today as the descendants of Ishmael have been a curse for the rest of the people on the earth by giving us the horrible religion of Islam and will continue to be a curse until Jesus comes back. **Genesis 16:7-16**

DESTROYING ABRAM'S PLANS

At the age of 99 years old, Abram was set in his ways and considered Ishmael, now ten years old, to be his heir and thought that God would accept the boy. Regardless how sentimental Abram was, God never deviated from His original



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plans and rejected Ishmael and told Abram that it would be His way. **Isaiah 55:7-11**

It is noteworthy to mention that God waited ten years before He confronted Abram about Ishmael.

God demanded obedience from Abram and told him there would be a new covenant between them. **Genesis 17:1-2**

Abram recognized that he was standing face to face with the living God, Jesus Christ. **verse 3**

God changed his name from Abram (father of height) to Abraham (father of a multitude). **verses 4-6**

This new covenant between God and Abraham required the ritual of circumcision be applied to him and all the males in his household. **verses 7-14**

God changed Sarai's name (Yahweh is prince) to Sarah (princess). **verse 15**

Abraham's unbelief came out when God told him that he would have a son with Sarah because he believed that God was limited like a human being. **verse 17**

Abraham only focused on the age factor of him and Sarah. He had a ten year old son, why couldn't he become the heir? If God just accepted Ishmael, He would not have to perform a work that Abraham believed was impossible. **verse 18**

Jesus must have been pained at the unbelief in Abraham but was patient and continued to state that Ishmael was out and that Sarah would have a son who would be the heir. **verses 19-22**

ABRAHAM'S RESPONSE

The Bible doesn't tell us the thoughts that swirled around in Abraham's head but we know that Abraham learned he could not argue with God or change His mind.

First, cutting the foreskin of the penis is very painful if there is no anesthesia. Secondly, each man to be circumcised had to humble himself and allow Abraham to touch their private parts. Thirdly, there would be an infection that would leave the men sick for several days. **Genesis 34:24-27.**

Abraham was not sure that God could produce a son for him by Sarah but he fulfilled his part of the covenant and passed this test on obedience.

SUMMARY

God is aware that man is a very feeble being, full of unbelief and bent on destruction but He is determined to save man from his sins and remake him to the image of God like Adam before he sinned. **Psalms 103:1-18**

Because of Abraham and Sarah's unbelief, they created an atmosphere of strife, disharmony, anger and resentment which strained their relationship and caused tension with with Hagar and Ishmael. Sarah never loved Ishmael and it must have hurt the boy.

Abraham and Sarah continued to live in a strained relationship for the next ten years and the Bible never tells us that it was repaired. Abraham must never have been able to heal from the wound when he was forced to drive out Ishmael after Isaac was born. **Genesis 21:8-14**

Hagar was a slave and happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time with no control over her life. She had to pay for the sins of her forefathers like all the other people before and after her. Noah and his three sons and their wives did not properly instruct their children in the fear of God with the consequence that people from all nations have ended up living and dying in sin and ending up in hell. **Exodus 20:1-5**

Only a handful believed in God and walked with him. **Matthew 7:13-14**

There must be repentance, forgiveness and a willingness to start over again before relationships can be restored! **Matthew 5:23-26**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?