

Minority Reports – Part 3 **Hagar the Egyptian – Gen.16:1-16; 21:8-21**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Different kinds of minorities: at risk & singled out
- 0.2 A “family triangle of trouble with which Abraham can hardly cope” (Walter Brueggemann)

1.0 Hagar the Egyptian

- 1.1 Maid to Sarai/Sarah (from within ANE Fertile Crescent)
- 1.2 Abraham mid-80s (16:3,16) and Sarah mid-70s
- 1.3 Concern for heir & care (see backstory in 15:1-6)
- 1.3 Some ANE marriage contracts stipulated maid-as-surrogate in event of wife’s ‘failure’
- 1.4 Concubine/surrogate mom: little power, rights, or social standing

2.0 Mutual Responsibilities

- 2.1 Sarah’s fault lines (16:2,5,6b; 21:10)
- 2.2 Abraham’s fault lines (16:4a,6)
- 2.3 Hagar’s fault lines (16:4; 21:9)
- 2.4 Ongoing, tenuous status of “wife”/concubine (16:3) and “son” (16:15)

3.0 Enter the Lord (16:7-14)

- 3.1 The two-level nature of biblical stories: human + divine
- 3.2 The Angel of the Lord appears in the wilderness (16:7)
- 3.3 A difficult charge (16:9) – specific to Hagar
- 3.4 A covenant-style promise (16:10-12)
- 3.5 Hagar’s response (16:13-14): “God sees” (*el-roi*) → “well of living One who sees” (*Beer-lahoi-roi*)
- 3.6 The rest of the story (21:8-21): expulsion, protection, blessing, tribe...Islam?

4.0 Importance of This for Us Today

- 4.1 Faith/trust is no easy matter (cf. timeline from ch.15→21)
- 4.2 Pros & cons of culture: guides & protects us, but we *must* assess it
- 4.3 Divine provision for safety may remove us *from* danger – or shield us *within* it
- 4.4 Dark issues in your family (tree) are *not* the final word on your life
- 4.5 God concerns himself with the elect/faithful ... & merciful to others *too* (Matt.5:45)

Next week (Sept.26) – Minority Reports – Part 4
Jephthah the Illegitimate – Jud.11