

Who is That and Who Cares?

Ishmael: The Muslim vs. Jew Origin Story
Genesis 16, 21 and 25

- Not all Arabs are Muslims.
- Not all Muslims are Arabs.
- Not all Arabs hate Jews.
- Many Muslims hate Jews.

The conflict in the Middle East began here.
This is the origin story.

16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 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."

Abram agreed to what Sarai said. 3 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. 4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.

When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. 5 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. May the Lord judge between you and me."

6 "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. 8 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.

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

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

11 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.

12 He will be a wild donkey of a man;

his hand will be against everyone

and everyone's hand against him,

and he will live in hostility

toward all his brothers."

13 She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." 14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

21:1 Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." 7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, 10 and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac."

11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. 12 But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. 13 I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring."

14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. 16 Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob.

17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. 18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.

21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Genesis 21

— He is mentioned one more time in Scripture when he helped bury his father Abraham Genesis 25:7-10.

— Sarah died at the age of 127 in Hebron. Genesis 23:1-2.

— The Bible does not record Hagar's death. She is last mentioned in Genesis 25:12

*These were the sons of Ishmael, and these are the names of the twelve tribal rulers according to their settlements and camps. 17 Ishmael lived a hundred and thirty-seven years. He breathed his last and died, and he was gathered to his people. 18 His descendants settled in the area from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt, as you go toward Ashur. **And they lived in hostility toward all the tribes related to them.** Genesis 25:16-19*

Music

Sermon Part 2

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A few points to remember...

- Abraham's sin with Hagar resulted in centuries of bloodshed.
- The descendants of Isaac are the Jews and Ishmael's are the the Arabs.
- Mohammed, the father of Islam, is rumored to have descended from Ishmael.
(One of the reasons Muslims claim a right to the Promised Land - Israel.)
 - Hagar is an important woman in Islam since Ishmael is the father of the Arabic people.

— The Qur’anic version of this story in Genesis twists the story to make Hagar the heroine and her son, Ishmael, the child of promise instead of Isaac.

God works in miraculous (impossible) ways.

**Abraham miraculously became a father at age 86 and again at age 99.

**Sarah was barren and had a baby because God wanted it to happen.

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail.” 38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. Luke 1:37

Little things become big things over time.

**Small compromises becomes big conflicts.

**Sarah tried to help God.

**Sarah and Hagar fought and wouldn’t reconcile.

**Generations were affected momentary decisions.

Joseph

Genesis 37:25-28 and 39:1

Gideon

Judges 8

King David

*With one mind they plot together;
they form an alliance against you—
6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
of Moab and the Hagrites, Psalm 83:5-6*

Jesus is a God who ‘sees’ (then and now).

**Hagar was lost and Jesus found her.

**Hagar was lost again and God spoke.

1. Hagar recognized Jesus.

2. Hagar didn’t die.

3. Hagar knew Jesus ‘saw’.

(She mattered enough for him to rescue her -
even though she didn’t matter to anyone else.)