



# THE TIME OF WAITING

Volume 12 Issue 1

A BIBLICAL STUDY of Genesis 16

*"My Wrong Be Upon Thee..."*

## GENESIS 16

1. What did Sarai realize after all this time? Gen. 16:2

- Notice the response of Abram, then read the definition of "hearkened." How does it appear that Abram forgot everything that just happened to him (Gen. 15)?

2. As we question the actions of Abram and Sarai, let us review the amount of time they waited for God's promise:

- The age of Abram when God called him out of Ur of the Chaldees (Gen. 12:4)
- The number of times God spoke of the promise to Abram concerning his seed: (12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 17:7)
- The age of Abram at the time of Ishmael's birth: (16:16)
- The age of Abraham and Sarah at the time of Isaac's birth: (17:17; 21:5)

- DISCUSS: Why is it difficult to wait on the Lord? (Is. 55:8-9; Is. 46:9-10)

3. What do we know about Hagar? (12:16; 16:1,5; 21:9)

- If God closed the wombs of some (Gen. 20:18), why would He allow Hagar to conceive? (Gen. 16:10; Gal. 4:22-31)

4. If we limit the promise to the birth of a child, we limit our understanding of God's infinite wisdom. Read Hebrews 11:8-16 and discover the completeness of God's will.

- Fill in a corresponding spiritual allegory for the following physical characters/items:
  - Abraham's obedience (Heb. 11:8):
  - Abraham, the sojourner (Heb. 11:9, 16-17):
  - Sarah, the barren freewoman (Gal. 4:26-28):
  - Hagar, the Egyptian bondwoman (Gal. 4:23-25):
  - Jerusalem (Gal. 4:25-26):
  - Stars of the sky (Heb. 11:12-13):

5. We have studied the time of waiting Abraham experienced and all that transpired in that time. Do we really understand what waiting on the Lord means?

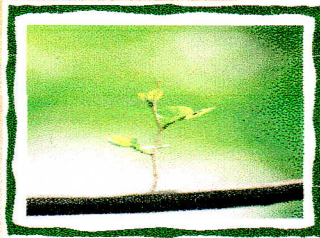
- DISCUSS: For what exactly does a child of the inheritance wait? Cease from affliction? Avenge from enemies? A blessing? A physical sign? Salvation?

Use the following references to support your answer:

Psalm 27:13-14; Psalm 37:7-9, 34; Psalm 130:1-5; Isaiah 25:9

- DISCUSS: Sarah stepped in and took charge. What happens when we step in the path of the Lord? What is our hope as we wait upon the Lord?

Romans 8:23-25; Galatians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 1:7



## STRONG'S HEBREW/GREEK DEFINITIONS



- DESPISED** (7043) "Qalal" - to make light (fig. easy, trifling), bring into contempt
- HEARKENED** (8085) "Shama" - hear intelligently
- WAIT** (6960) "Qavah" - to bind together (by twisting); fig. to expect
- WAITING** (G553) "'Amats" - to be expect fully, to look far

## THE ALLEGORY

The continual discovery that God has designed the promise of salvation to be multi-dimensional is awe inspiring. Often we get caught up in searching for physical evidence and limit our search for God's spiritual allegories intricately webbed throughout the gospel.

## TEXT OF THE WEEK

*"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say, on the Lord."*  
- Psalm 27:13-14

