

Sarah's Suggestion...Abraham's Demise

by Anthony N. Wade

In Genesis the 16th. Chapter we have the story of Abram (Abraham) and Sarai (Sarah).

They had been promised a child (**Genesis 15:1-6**), but Sarah had not yet conceived. Abraham and Sarah decided that they would help God out concerning His promise; so Sarah suggested that Abraham take her maid Hagar and lay with her. Hagar was an Egyptian maidservant. Abraham agreed with Sarah's suggestion and Hagar conceived.

Sarah was so disturbed with the fact that her maidservant had conceived a child that she began to mistreat Hagar. Hagar ran from Sarah's presence but on her way back to Egypt the Angel of the Lord found her and commissioned her to return to Sarah and to submit to her—although Hagar was treated terribly. It is apparent that God was working some things in and out of both Sarah and Hagar.

We have a clue to the unrest that we see in the Middle East. Hagar had given birth to Ishmael.

Genesis 16:10-12 NKJ

{10} Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

{11} And the Angel of the Lord said to her: "Behold you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has heard your afflictions."

{12} He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man, and every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

It is documented that the descendants of Ishmael are the Arab nations. What is said concerning Ishmael and his offspring will help us to understand why we are seeing so much instability in the Middle East. Verse twelve (12) really lets us see it, by stating that he shall be a wild man, as well as his hand will be against every man; and every man's hand against him. Should we be startled at what we are seeing in that part of the world?

If Ishmael's descendants are wild and cannot control themselves, should we look for peace from that region of the world? Should we expect the Arab nations to keep their word with Israel? It is recorded that the Arab Nations have been at odds with Israel for a number of centuries (**Genesis 21:8-21**). If we are looking for the Arab nations to keep their word with Israel we are sadly mistaken.

We are commissioned to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Psalm 122:6-9 Revised Standard Version

{6} Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem! “May they prosper who love you!

{7} Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers!”

{8} For my brethren and companions sake I will say, Peace be within you!

{9} For the sake of the House of the Lord our God.

What is the purpose of praying for Jerusalem’s peace? The benefits of praying for the peace of Jerusalem are more for those that actually do it. This is what I mean: Anyone who is a friend of Jerusalem is a friend of God. When we embrace the Nation of Israel, we are embracing God Himself. Any nation who embraces the nation of Israel will reap the benefits of Psalm 122. By praying for the peace of Jerusalem we are praying for nothing to be missing, and nothing to be broken. We are praying for the welfare, health and prosperity of the city, as well as the nation. The word Jerusalem means “City of Peace.”

We are declaring, and proclaiming the same for our very own country as well as the churches of America 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸 or where you may live. I am reminded of a declaration that God spoke to Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3 NKJ

{1} Now the Lord had said to Abram: Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.

{2} I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

{3} I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

The preceding passage of scripture indicates that God separated Abraham from his family in order to make him and his descendants the “Messianic Nation,” which would bring salvation to all the Earth’s families. God promises to make Abraham great; and God did bless Abraham in many ways, including material blessings.

In Genesis 13:1-2, we see how Abraham was made very rich. Genesis 24:35, is where Abrahams servant reports “**that the Lord has blessed my master greatly.**” Then he lists the material blessings that God had given to Abraham. The dynamic of this historic fact becomes pertinent to every believer today.

In **Galatians 3:13-14**, God promises to give all believers the blessings of Abraham, telling us that Jesus became a curse for us so that we might receive “The blessings of Abraham.” This begins of course with our being born again, or becoming new creatures in Christ Jesus. But “The blessings of Abraham” involve other things as well. The Lord wants us to prosper—spiritually, emotionally, physically, and materially. The blessings belong to us by His promise, and we need make no apology for the fact that prosperity for the total man is included.