

“Impatience” - Genesis 15:1-6; 16:1-6

Ask - “Do you consider yourself to be a patient person? Why or why not?”

Background - After settling in Canaan, war broke out among several kings. During the conflict, Lot was captured. Abram pursued Lot’s captors and ultimately rescued his nephew from them. On his way home, Abram met Melchizedek, king of Salem, and offered a tithe to the Lord.

“Concerned” - Genesis 15:1-3

(v1) After the events of the previous chapter, God spoke again to Abram. What did He say? Read Psalm 127:3-4.

(v2-3) What was Abram’s concern? Who was his heir at this point? On what basis was this servant Abram’s heir?

GOD PROMISED TO GIVE ABRAM A GREAT REWARD, BUT ABRAM WAS CONCERNED THAT HE HAD NO BIOLOGICAL CHILDREN OF HIS OWN TO PASS THESE WONDERFUL PROMISES ALONG TO.

“Believing” - Genesis 15:4-6

(v4) How did God respond to Abram’s concern? What did the LORD promise would happen?

(v5) What did God show to Abram? What did He challenge him to do? Have you ever gone outside at night and tried doing this? What then did God say?

(v6) Did Abram believe God’s promise? How did God reckon his belief to him? What does this mean? (Abram was made righteous because of his faith, not by works)

GOD SHOWED ABRAM THE NIGHT SKY AND PROMISED TO MULTIPLY HIS DESCENDANTS LIKE THE STARS. ABRAM BELIEVED THE LORD.

“Impatient” - Genesis 16:1-6

(v1-2) Who were Sarai and Hagar? What did Sarai tell Abram to do and why? Did he follow her suggestion?

(v3) How long had they lived in Canaan before these events took place? Do you suppose they had begun to question God’s promise(s)? Discuss.

(v4-5) When Hagar became pregnant with Abram’s child, how did Sarai and

Hagar's relationship change? What was Sarai's message to Abram?

(v6) How did Abram deal with the situation? How did Sarai treat Hagar, and what did Hagar eventually do?

ABRAM AND SARAI GREW IMPATIENT WAITING ON GOD'S PROMISE OF A CHILD, SO SHE DEvised AND HE CONSENTED TO A PLAN THAT WOULD ACCELERATE THE PROCESS. THE RESULT - TENSION AND CONFLICT.

Application - God does not need our help to keep His promises. We don't have to take shortcuts in order to attain them. Nowadays, we often refer to this as, "Getting ahead of God." We must be patient and wait on the LORD, knowing that His promises are true and will be fulfilled in His ways and in accordance with His perfect timing. If and when we sabotage the process, like Sarai and Abram did, invariably unintended consequences will result. Are you feeling impatient with the LORD right now? Why? Pray for patience to wait on Him.