

THE PROBLEM OF BEING UNABLE TO BEAR CHILDREN

1. This was Sarai's problem Genesis 16:1
2. Human reasoning alone
 - a) She had an Egyptian maid called Hagar Genesis 16:2
 - b) Note the use of the LORD's name
 "The LORD has restrained me from bearing children" Genesis 16:2
 - i) This does not mean she was correct in her reasoning
 - ii) She could not fully fathom why she was barren
 - iii) She did not exercise sufficient faith
 - c) Suggestion to Abram
 - i) To have Hagar bear children on her behalf
 - ii) Legally, the offspring would be Sarai's
 - d) Slaves in the ancient days
 - i) They have no rights at all
 - ii) They sometimes bore children for their master
 - iii) This was not an uncommon practice
3. Abram
 - a) He agreed to this suggestion Genesis 16:2
 - b) Hagar became the second wife of Abram Genesis 16:3

DWELLING IN CANAAN

1. Abram had already dwelt 10 years in Canaan Genesis 16:3
2. He had left Haran at 75 years of age Genesis 12:4
3. He was now 85 years old

COMPLICATIONS AROSE

1. Hagar conceived Genesis 16:4
2. She despised Sarai Genesis 16:4
3. Sarai felt this severely

AN ANGRY RESPONSE

1. Sarai recognized how wrong she had been Genesis 16:5
 - a) In giving Hagar to be the second wife of Abram
 - b) She complained about being despised by Hagar`
2. She used the LORD's name again Genesis 16:5
"The LORD judge between you and me"
 - a) Between Sarai and Abram
 - b) There was an obvious rift

ABRAM'S RESPONSE

1. She referred to Hagar as "her maid" Genesis 16:6
2. Rather than as his "wife"
3. Sarai was allowed to deal with Hagar as she pleased, as the mistress of the home
4. This response:
 - a) Weak
 - b) Uncalled-for

SARAI'S RESPONSE

1. Sarai dealt harshly with Hagar Genesis 16:6
2. Hagar could not cope with the harshness
3. She fled from the home!