

JANUARY 6

Read Genesis 16–18

CHAPTER 16

NOW Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name *was* Hagar.

2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

4 ¶ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

5 And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong *be* upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.

6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid *is* in thy hand; do

to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

7 ¶ And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.

9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

10. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

12 And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him;

and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

14 Wherefore the well was called Beerlahairoi; behold, *it is* between Kadesh and Bered.

15 ¶ And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.

16 And Abram *was* fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

CHAPTER 17

AND when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.

3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,

4. As for me, behold, my covenant *is* with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

7. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

9 ¶ And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.

10 This *is* my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.

11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which *is* not of thy seed.

13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

15 ¶ And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah *shall* her name *be*.

16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be *a mother* of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall *a child* be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, *and* with his seed after him.

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

22 And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

23 ¶ And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the selfsame day, as God had said unto him.

24 And Abraham *was* ninety years old and nine, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

25 And Ishmael his son *was* thirteen years old, when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

26 In the selfsame day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son.

27 And all the men of his house, born in the house, and bought with

money of the stranger, were circumcised with him.

CHAPTER 18

AND the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day;

2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

3 And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:

4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said.

6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead *it*, and make cakes upon the hearth.

7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave *it* unto a young

man; and he hasted to dress it.

8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set *it* before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.

9 ¶ And they said unto him, Where *is* Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard *it* in the tent door, which *was* behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah *were* old *and* well stricken in age; *and* it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid.

And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

16 ¶ And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

18 Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.

23 ¶ And Abraham drew near, and

said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that *are* therein?

25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

26 And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which *am but* dust and ashes:

28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for *lack of* five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy *it*.

29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do *it* for forty's sake.

30 And he said *unto him*, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall

thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do *it*, if I find thirty there.

31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for twenty's sake.

32 And he said, Oh let not the

Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy *it* for ten's sake.

33 And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Today's reading covers the birth of Ishmael, the changing of Abram's name to Abraham, the Abrahamic covenant confirmed and made everlasting, and the promise of Isaac.

There is a practical lesson concerning the birth of Ishmael. Rather than allowing God to work in His own time and way, Sarah ran ahead of God. This always brings trouble to our lives. The flesh always loves to "help" God, while true faith is shown in patience. Sarah doubted God's promise that she would bear Abraham a son. And Abraham ceased to walk in the Spirit and began to walk in the flesh. Someone has said, "Faith is living without scheming." We should never doubt God's promises. Remember, we cannot mix faith and flesh, law and grace, or promise and self-effort.

As Christians, we must be strong and mature so that we might enjoy the fullness of God's perfect plan for our lives.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin" (Proverbs 10:16).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 1: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

HYMN FOR TODAY

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD
by William C. Dix, 1837-1898

According to tradition, the period in the church year that begins with January 6 and extends to Ash

Wednesday is known as Epiphany.

Epiphany marks the time that the Christ Child was revealed to the wise men in His first manifestation to the Gentiles as the Light of the whole world. It is generally believed by Bible scholars that these wise men from the East arrived approximately 2 years after the birth of Christ. The earnestness of their search, their worship and gifts, and their desire to return home to share their spiritual experience with others have much to teach us. In many churches, Epiphany is ushered in with a special week of prayer, a renewed commitment to evangelism, and a worldwide concern for missions.

Epiphany should be a strong reminder to all Christians that God wants not only our worship but also our willingness to share His message with others both at home and abroad. The gospel of good news must be heard beyond the walls of our church buildings. May we be challenged to share God's love both by word and deed with those He brings into our lives each day.

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star
behold—
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beam-
ing bright—
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to
Thee.*

*As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and
earth adore.
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and
bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,*

all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.

*Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed
souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy
glory hide.*

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1412
THE BIRTHDAY OF JOAN OF ARC.

1878
CARL SANDBURG WAS BORN.

1882
SAM RAYBURN WAS BORN.

1912
NEW MEXICO WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.

Let us pray for our friends and God's work in New Mexico.

1919
THEODORE ROOSEVELT DIED.
Let us pray for our President again today.

1850
CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON WAS CONVERTED.

It was during a snow storm when young Spurgeon went to a Methodist church. There were less than fifteen people present, and the minister did not appear. A layman spoke and used as his text, Isaiah 45:22, which says, "Look unto me, and be ye saved...."

He saw Spurgeon and said, "Young man, you are in trouble. Look to Jesus. Look! Look! Look!"

Spurgeon did look and a new era in Christian circles was born.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1832
NEW ENGLAND ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY organized at African Baptist Church on Boston's Beacon Hill.

1773
MASSACHUSETTS SLAVES PETITIONED THE LEGISLATURE FOR FREEDOM.
There is a record of eight freedom petitions during the Revolutionary War period.

1971
CECIL A. PARTEE ELECTED PRESIDENT PRO TEM OF THE ILLINOIS STATE SENATE.

A Christian Life:

LOUIS S. BAUMAN

1875-1950

Louis Sylvester Bauman, pastor, missionary statesman, Bible conference speaker, and author, was born on November 13, 1875. The son of an itinerant Brethren minister and evangelist, William J.H. Bauman, he yielded to the call of God to the Christian ministry in young manhood. Dr. Bauman served in pastorates at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Mexico and Rowan, Indiana; Long Beach, California; and Washington, D.C. His pastorate at Long Beach continued for 34 years, building a membership of over 1,900 and attendances nearing 2,500.

During that time, many branch churches were started in Southern California, and over 150 young men and women entered full-time Christian service. His ministry as an evangelist was blessed of God. Brethren churches from coast to coast credit his early meetings as the beginning of their work.

Early in his pastorate in Philadelphia, a street car conductor, James Gribble, was saved. Mr. Gribble became the first Brethren pioneer missionary to go to the Central African Republic, a ministry that has produced today almost 500 Brethren churches and a membership of over 80,000 African Christians.



MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

WHY MEMORIZE THE WORD?

(Assignment 1)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV.com main page.)

A Command

() Deuteronomy 6:6

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

An Imperative

() Deuteronomy 11:18

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

A Necessity

() Job 22:22

Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

A Promise

() Proverbs 3:3-4

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.