



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, I ask You to help me change the way I've been looking at the hardships and challenges in my life. Yes, it's true that I don't enjoy them, but since I'm in this time of my life, help me use my time to the maximum by strengthening my faith and exercising myself spiritually. Rather than be broken by this difficult season, I want to come out of it stronger than ever. Holy Spirit, please help me today to change the way I am looking at life. I want to make a firm commitment to exercise myself unto godliness until I am so strong spiritually that nothing in life can stop me from fulfilling the dreams God has put in my heart., in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sparkling Gems from the Greek

Scripture

Genesis 15-16

Genesis 15:1-21 (KJV) 1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward. 2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. 7 And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. 8 And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? 9 And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. 10 And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. 11 And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. 13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. 15 And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full. 17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. 18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: 19 The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, 20 And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, 21 And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

Genesis 16:1-16 (KJV); 1 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,

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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.

Genesis 15-16. God's Promises to Abraham Renewed

God renewed His covenant with Abraham graphically through the ancient custom of passing between the pieces of sacrificed animals. This solemn action signified an oath between the parties of covenant that "May it be so done to me if I do not keep my oath and pledge."

The promises include the prediction that before his descendants would actually live in Canaan, they would spend 400 years in a foreign land (15:13), meaning Egypt. In addition, when Abraham was 100 and Sarah 90, Isaac was promised. Their impatience with regard to God's fulfillment of this promise prompted them to ask the assistance of their maidservant, Hagar. This was the custom of the day, to ensure the birth of a male heir. Thirteen years later, God reminded Abraham that he needed to keep his part of the covenant. Ultimately, God's will and promise was manifested in the birth of Isaac. The name "Isaac" means "he laughs"—a name given by God quite possibly in response to Abraham and Sarah's initial disbelief (17:17 ; 18:12).

God also instituted circumcision as the symbol of the covenant with Abraham and his descendants, a physical marking of Abraham's male descendants as belonging to God's nation. It is interesting to note that the Arabs, who consider themselves descendants of Ishmael, are circumcised at the age of 13. To this people and to others, circumcision serves as a rite of passage from childhood to manhood.(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley: 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; pages 113-114)

Chap. 15; God's Covenant With Abram; V1 Abram had not taken any spoil from the battle, so God told him that He would be his shield and reward. V 13 The 4000 years of bondage of the Hebrews in Egypt is prophesied. V 14 The Hebrews "borrowed" from their Egyptian neighbors when they left Egypt.

Chapt. 16; Sarai and Hagar; V2 Sarai had a lapse of faith when she tried to help God to Produce an heir for Abram. Though this lapse was forgiven, the descendants, of Ishmael have caused problems for the sons of Abram since these early days. V11 "Ishmael" means God shall hear. V14 "Beerlahairoi" means the well of Him that liveth and seeth me.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; commentaries; page 13)

If Abraham had bowed his knee to fear, the rest of the story would never have come to pass. He would never have experienced God as his Shield and his great compensation, and he would never have received his exceedingly great reward (see Genesis 15:1).

Abraham had a definite word from God about his future. He knew what God had promised, but he had no indication about when the promise would be fulfilled. The same is often true for us. While we are waiting for our manifestation to come forth—waiting for a breakthrough—we may grow frustrated or impatient. Sitting in the waiting room of life is not always easy!

Once God speaks to us or shows us something, we tend to be excited and focus on that revelation. It is as though we are "pregnant" with what God has said. He has planted a seed in us—and then we have to enter a time of preparation before that seed can bear fruit. These seasons of preparation equip us to handle whatever God has promised to give us or do for us.

This process parallels the development and birth of a child. First, a seed is planted in the mother's womb, then a time of preparation (nine months of waiting) is required, and then, finally, the baby is born. During the nine months, so much happens in the mother and in the child. The seed grows to maturity, while the mother's body prepares to give birth, and the family prepares everything necessary for a new baby in the house.

Just as so much development takes place in the hidden place of the mother's womb, there is also much activity taking place in the spiritual realm concerning God's promises in our lives—and we cannot see this, any more than we can watch cells multiply in an unborn baby. The fact that we cannot see or feel any progress does not mean nothing is happening. God does some of His best work in secret; He delights in surprising His children. Whether you know it or not, God is busy bringing good things to pass for you, right this minute! Just give Him time—and you will see.

Abram and Sarai got tired of waiting. They were weary as they watched for God's promise to come to pass, and they wondered if they might do something to help move things along. Sarai decided to see if her handmaid, Hagar, would conceive a child by Abram (see Genesis 16:2). She thought that could be God's way of giving her and Abram the child He promised. God had promised Abram a son by Sarai (see Genesis 17:16), but since it appeared God was not doing anything, she must have reasoned, she knew how to help! Does that sound familiar? Have you ever tried or wanted to "help" God in your life?

In Sarai's case, Abram heeded her advice and Hagar conceived. The child, named Ishmael, was indeed a son, as God had spoken, but he was not the child of the promise. Abram and Sarai waited another fourteen years before Isaac, the true promised son, arrived. I wonder if it took so long because once we give birth to the "Ishmaels" in our lives, we must deal with the consequences. In other words, once an Ishmael is born, we have to change his diapers and take care of him!

We would like to carry out our own plans and then have God bless them, but He taught me years ago that He is not obligated to bless or care for the things I give birth to out of the strength of my flesh. The psalmist affirms this point: "Except the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it" (Psalm 127:1).

God has great things in store for you, and He will bring them to pass in His perfect timing. Let me encourage you to wait on Him. An Ishmael will be a burden in your life, but God's "Isaacs" will bring blessing and delight.

Psalm 150:1-6 (AMP)

1 PRAISE THE Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the heavens of His power!

2 Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness!

3 Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp!

4 Praise Him with tambourine and [single or group] dance; praise Him with stringed and wind instruments or flutes!

5 Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals!

6 Let everything that has breath and every breath of life praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!)

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 25-28)

Alistair Begg at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa & Calvary Chapel Murrieta!

Alistair Begg from the Truth For Life Radio Program will be speaking at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa on Wednesday November 16th at 7pm (west coast time)! He'll also be sharing the very next day for the K-Wave Listener Event on Thursday the 17th at Calvary Chapel Murrieta! 7pm west coast; 9pm central; 10pm east coast.....

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