

Genesis 16

Verse 1-2

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had not borne him a child, but she had an Egyptian slave woman whose name was Hagar. ² So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing *children*. Please have relations with my slave woman; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

Please have relations with my slave woman

This violated what God intended for the marriage relationship

In doing this Abram and Sarai set a bad example for future generations

And it was a presumption that God could not fulfill His promise

Verse 3-4

³ And so after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her slave woman, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. ⁴ Then he had relations with Hagar, and she conceived; and when *Hagar* became aware that she had conceived, her mistress was insignificant in her sight.

To be his wife

Hagar became Abraham's wife but she was not an equal to Sara

She had more rights than a handmaid, but fewer rights than a wife

When she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes."

When Hagar became pregnant she felt superior to Sarah

Polygamy is bound to be full of envy, jealousy, and strife

Verse 5-6

⁵ So Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be upon you! I put my slave woman into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was insignificant in her sight. May the Lord judge between you and me.” ⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, “Look, your slave woman is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight.” So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.

So Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be upon you!

Sarah was the one that suggested this arrangement and now its Abram’s fault

But if momma isn’t happy, no one is happy

May the Lord judge between you and me

Sarah thought God would be on her side

But any third party could see that both of them were to blame

Sarah for suggesting this arrangement and Abraham for agreeing to it

Do to her that which is good in your sight

Abram put the responsibility for his problem back in Sarai’s lap

So Sarai dealt harshly with her handmaid and Hagar decided to run away

Verse 7-8

⁷ Now the angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s slave woman, from where have you come, and where are you going?” And she said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.”

Now the angel of the Lord found her

Angel of the Lord was used as a reference to God

See Genesis 22:11–12

This is an amazing thing that is happening here

In what most people consider to be a male dominated society

A handmaid (female slave) is being addressed by the God of Heaven

By a spring of water in the wilderness, on the way to Shur

See map 1605 below



She must have decided to head back to Egypt

That makes sense she was an Egyptian by birth

It was also possible that she was hoping to receive help from a relative

Verses 9-11

⁹ So the angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority.” ¹⁰ The angel of the Lord also said to her, “I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count.” ¹¹ The angel of the Lord said to her further,

“Behold, you are pregnant,
And you will give birth to a son;
And you shall name him Ishmael,
Because the Lord has heard your affliction.

Return to your mistress, and submit to her authority

Why would God want her to return?

So she would be blessed along with the rest of Abram’s family

I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count

Arabs are the descendants of Abraham through Ishmael and Hagar.

The Arab world consists of 22 Arab countries of the Arab League

These Arab states occupy North Africa and West Asia

See Map 1610



The Arab world had a combined population of around 464 million in 2022

This was part of the blessing that was promised to Abram

That he would become the father of many nations

**And you shall name him Ishmael,
Because the Lord has heard your affliction.**

The name Ishmael means God will hear

The Lord heard Hagar and answered with a great blessings

Verse 12

**¹² But he will be a wild donkey of a man;
His hand *will be* against everyone,
And everyone's hand *will be* against him;
And he will live in defiance of all his brothers."**

But he will be a wild donkey of a man;

I wonder if the Arabs reject this description of their forefather

Muhammad and Islam came from his line

Verses 13 -14

¹³ She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." ¹⁴ That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

I have now seen the One who sees me

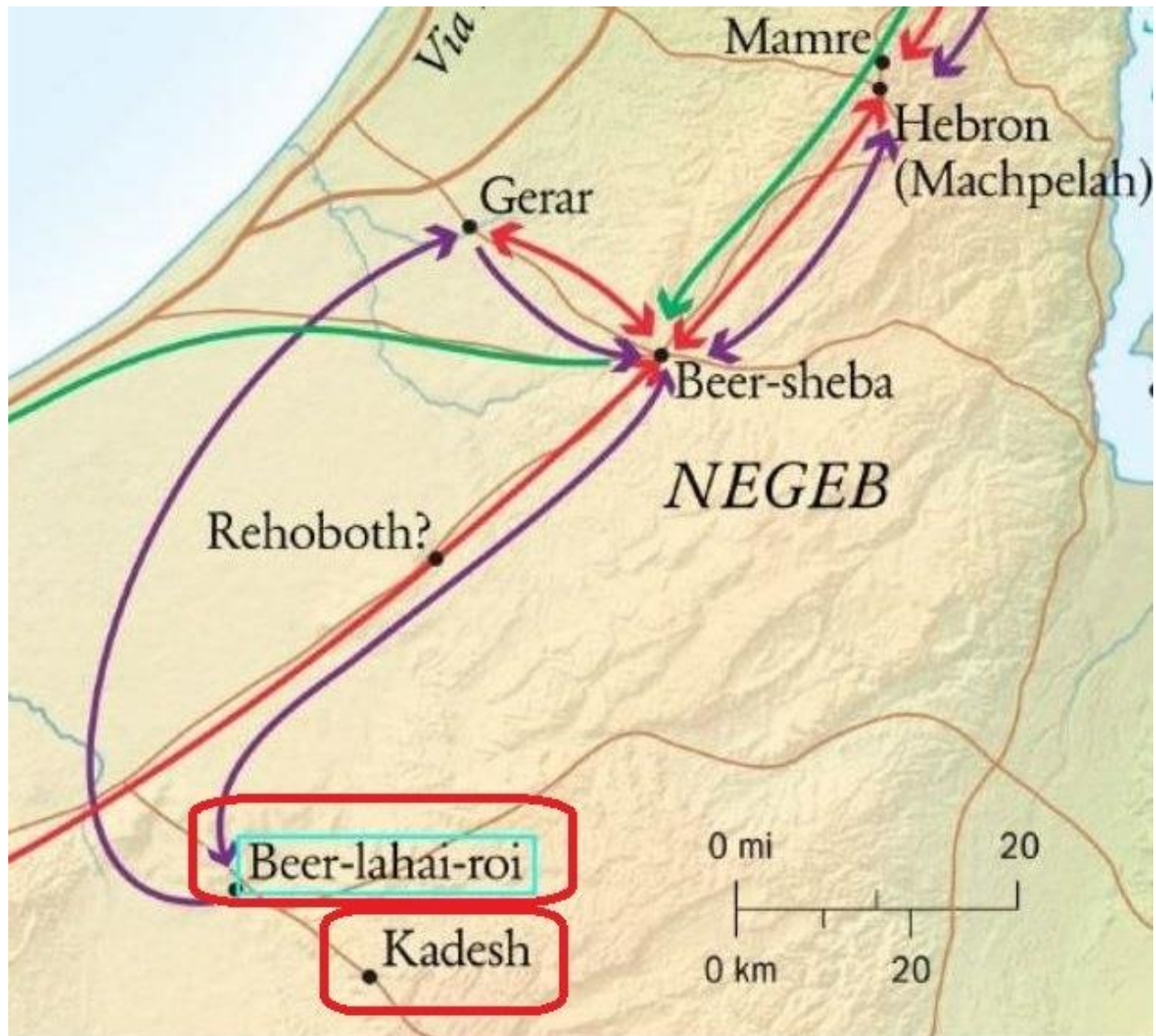
How wonderful, a slave woman seeing and speaking with God

God is not a respecter of persons

That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

See map 1615

Map 1615



The well or spring is between Kadesh and Bered

Verse 15-16

¹⁵ So Hagar bore a son to Abram; and Abram named his son, to whom Hagar gave birth, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

Abraham was 86 when Ishmael was born

Isaac would not be born for another 14 years