

# Hagar

**Hagar was the Egyptian maidservant of Sarah, Abraham's wife, and mother of Abraham's first child Ishmael, who became the founder of the Arab nations.**

With the passing of years Abraham felt keenly the lack of a son and heir, [Genesis 15:1-3].

God promised Abraham that he would have an heir and be father of many descendants, [Genesis 15:4-7]. Abraham believed God.

But as time passed Abraham and Sarah had doubts and sought to gain an heir by their own unsanctioned efforts.

In accordance with the customary law of that period, the childless Sarah urged Abraham to have a son by her servant Hagar, so Ishmael was born, [Genesis 16:1-3].

In conception, Hagar despised her barren mistress and Sarah realised what a mistake she had made to pressure Abraham into making Hagar conceive, [Genesis 16:4-6].

Hagar fled from Abraham's home.

**Escape of some kind is usually the most tempting solution to our problems, in fact it can become a habit. Hagar was a person who used this approach to her problems.**

When the *"going got tough, she usually got going."*

**However it is worthwhile noticing that this big problem that Hagar faced was brought on by other people's choices.**

**Sarah chose her to bear Abraham's child, and Abraham went along with the idea. Hagar probably had little to say in the matter being a servant girl in a strange country.**

It is not difficult to understand in the circumstances how Hagar's pregnancy caused her to look down on Sarah, that resulted in hard feelings on both sides.

This is what motivated Hagar's first escape.

When Hagar returned to the family and gave birth to Ishmael, Sarah's continued barrenness must have contributed to bitterness on both sides.

It was God who commanded Hagar to return to Abraham and Sarah and gave her a promise that her yet unborn child would be the father of a great multitude of people, [Genesis 16:7-16].

God also saw that the progeny of Ishmael would be the source of many problems, as history has shown.

God also confirmed the future of Ishmael to Abraham [Genesis 17:20].

When Sarah did finally conceive and gave birth to Isaac, [Genesis 21:1-3].

Ishmael, true to the character that God had predicted mocked the young Isaac, [Genesis 21:8-9]. As a result Sarah insisted that Hagar and Ishmael should be cast out of the family.

Abraham was reluctant, but God told him to go ahead, [Genesis 21:10-14].

**When the water that Abraham had provided was used up, Hagar again sought to escape from the problem, [Genesis 21:15-16].**

God as always was faithful to the promise He had made and intervened to solve the problem that Hagar was escaping from, [Genesis 21:17-21].

**Have you noticed how patiently God operates to make our escape attempts fail?**

**We need to learn from the example of God's dealings with Hagar that escape from our problems is only a temporary solution.**

God wants us to face up to our problems and cry out to Him for the help we need.

We only experience the help from God in our problems and through conflicts and difficulties, **not** when we try to escape from them.

Yet many people, **not** knowing the existence of the Creator God, or His Word, the Christian Bible, that is full of promises we can claim, seek to escape their problems with the use of alcohol and drugs or a life-long seeking of other physical pleasures.

**If you have been using the "*Hagar solution*" to your problems, choose just one of those problems, ask for God's help, and begin to face it today.**