

Ordering Our Lives in the Spirit

Shalom,

The portion of the Torah found in **Genesis 18:1—22:24** is called **Vayeira** and means “**And He appeared.**” It includes the time that three visitors appeared to Abraham as he sat at his tent door in the heat of the day. I believe it was Jesus Who informed Abraham that Isaac would be born. God revealed His plan to Abraham little by little. After Isaac’s birth, the account of sending Hagar and Ishmael away is related in the 21st chapter. For a man to send a son and that son’s mother away seems unthinkable and cruel, and yet we read that God approved of the exile. Abraham was shocked by the thought until the LORD revealed His will to him.

But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom Hagar had borne to Avraham, making fun of Yitz'chak; so Sarah said to Avraham, "Throw this slave-girl out! And her son! I will not have this slave-girl's son as your heir along with my son Yitz'chak!" Avraham became very distressed over this matter of his son. But God said to Avraham, "Don't be distressed because of the boy and your slave-girl. Listen to everything Sarah says to you, because it is your descendants through Yitz'chak who will be counted." (Genesis 21:9-12 CJB)

But God said to Avraham, "Don't be distressed because of the boy and your slave-girl. Listen to everything Sarah says to you, because it is your descendants through Yitz'chak who will be counted. But I will also make a nation from the son of the slave-girl, since he is descended from you." (Genesis 21:12-13 CJB)

It is never profitable to use your natural reasoning to question God. The action that was required of Abraham looks severe, but, in God’s love, the angel of the LORD was sent to minister provision to Hagar and Ishmael. Abraham, when interceding for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18:25, was speaking by the Holy Spirit when he said, “**Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**” **God always does what is right. He loves all people, and He does all things perfectly. This situation is no different.** Notice that YHWH assures Abraham and Hagar of his care for Ishmael.

Get up, lift the boy up, and hold him tightly in your hand, because I am going to make him a great nation. (Genesis 21:18 CJB)

The direction given by God to Abraham stressed that Isaac and his descendants are at the center of His plan. Galatians 4 gives us new covenant insight into a basic principle of the Word of God that, when revealed by the Holy Spirit and acted upon, will lead every child of God to be fully utilized, as a member of Messiah’s body. Each of us must recognize that the ways of the Spirit of God, His thoughts, plans, and purposes are infinitely above our natural understanding. This is related to us in a picture of two sons, **Ishmael** and **Isaac**, and their mothers, **Hagar** and **Sarah**, to show the way of the **flesh leads to bondage** while **the way of the Spirit leads to freedom.**

It says that Avraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and one by the free woman. The one by the slave woman was born according to the limited capabilities of human beings, but the one by the free woman was born through the miracle-working power of God fulfilling His promise. Now, to make a midrash on these things: the two women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai and bears children for slavery—this is Hagar. Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Yerushalayim, for she serves as a slave along with her children. But the Yerushalayim above is free, and she is our mother; for the Tanakh says,

"Rejoice, you barren woman who does not bear children! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labor! For the deserted wife will have more children than the one whose husband is with her!" You, brothers, like Yitz'chak, are children referred to in a promise of God. But just as then the one born according to limited human capability persecuted the one born through the Spirit's supernatural power, so it is now. Nevertheless, what does the Tanakh say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for by no means will the son of the slave woman inherit along with the son of the free woman!"

*So, brothers, we are children not of the slave woman, but of the free woman.
(Galatians 4:22 – 4:31 CJB)*

The Holy Spirit reveals that Ishmael and Isaac represent the natures that are present in each of our lives. **Ishmael**, who was born by human reasoning of Sarah and Abraham and is a manifestation of **the works of the flesh**, while **Isaac**, who was miraculously born through the Wisdom of God and by the supernatural enablement of the Word and Spirit of God, represent **the mind of the Spirit**. Isaac and his children are **fruit born of the Spirit and are to show the Spirit-led life**. **We must cast out or send away that natural fleshly inclination that desires to rule and have dominion through soulish decision-making and usurping control by natural senses and physical strength.** That fleshly realm persecutes and mocks the God-ordained, spiritual nature placed within us which is denoted by the covenant words, **"In Him,"** and it is through our place in His authority, that we show forth our true nature as the sons of God.

The most crucial thing that believers can understand is that we are created by God as **spirit, soul, and body**, and to recognize that, in His perfect creation, **our spirit is to be in control of the mind and body parts of us**. We, therefore, have dominion in the earth, not by reasoning, but by allowing the mind of Yeshua the Messiah to operate in us to make us see with the Father. To understand this great truth, we must receive revelation directly from the Spirit of God, and, as difficult as that may seem, God is willing to open your heart and give revelation to you from His Word made alive by the Holy Spirit if you are willing to allow Him to take control. We speak the living Word of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“Cast out,” indicates a degree of severity necessary to dislodge. Just wishing to change won’t cut it, nor is it something we can just pray that God will do for us. **No, you must choose to crucify the flesh,** to put the fleshly nature in its place, that is remove it from its place of control, and at the same time, **give place to the working of the Holy Spirit within you by walking in obedience to God’s Word, His teaching and instruction.** Our fleshly nature is under the control of our mind. We need to make certain that we bring our minds (souls) under submission to our spirits which are united with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

*Do not be conformed to this world but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 TLV)*

When the Spirit of God, by the Word of God, shows you an area where the “old man” of the flesh is in control, **don’t tolerate it.** Don’t make excuses. **Cast that old-man way of doing things out.** Do it promptly and with force. **Choose to handle everything as a new creation.** No more gossip, no more judging others, no more solving problems with your own devices, and no more letting your mind run wild.

***Moreover, those who belong to the Messiah Yeshua have put their old nature to death on the stake, along with its passions and desires.** Since it is through the Spirit that we have Life, let it also be through the Spirit that we order our lives day by day. (Galatians 5:24-25 CJB)*

Complete, in Him,
Terry

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