

Genesis 16: Tests And Wells:

I. Tests (1-6).

The first test Abraham had was at his call; he delayed.

The second was leaving with his wife; he carried along his father and nephew.

The third was the famine; he wandered off to Egypt (brought along Hagar)...

The fourth was fighting for his nephew, he won the battle.

The fifth was fear; the WORD of the LORD came to Him.

The sixth was surety of God's promises, God made the covenant.

Now it is a test of waiting! He was 76years when promised a son, now he is 86years, 10 years of waiting...no child yet...

The test of patience is going to last 13 more years (he doesn't know it).

Adam was stumbled by his wife in Eden; Abram is stumbled into sexual immorality (surrogate motherhood). Both Adam and Abram knew better, God had spoken to them, not their wives, and it was their responsibility to lead their wives to obedience to God.

"LORD you have delayed so we'll help you..."

Waiting for God by faith is normally attacked by doubt and discouragement, which so often leads to temptation and sin.

1Timothy 6:11-12 – *But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

Abram's failure leads to strife in the family as Hagar pride-fully disrespects Sarai. Sarai admits her fault but Abram doesn't take responsibility and throws everything back to his wife.

Sexual unfaithfulness in marriage breaks many marriages and families.

"If we seek to change our circumstances, we will jump from the frying pan into the fire. We must be triumphant exactly where we are. It is not a change of climate we need, but a change of heart. The flesh wants to run away, but God wants to demonstrate His power exactly here we have known our greatest embarrassment." Barnhouse.

Psalms 27:14 – *Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!*

Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given. G. Campbell Morgan.

Psalm 37:34 - *Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.*

Isaiah 40:30-31 - *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

II. Wells (7-15).

Hagar runs off and rests at a well, she was thirsty. The Angel of the LORD found her and speaks to her.

The conversation is similar to the one in John 4; both women are in sexual sin, at a well, God redirects their thoughts, sends them back home (Go home and submit yourself before your master) and they respond in worship.

You-Are-the-God-who Sees –El Roi.

The Angel of the LORD blessed her and her son Ishmael who was going to have many descendants but was to be a troublesome man.

Titus 2:12 - *The grace of God that brings salvation, teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.*

Water is symbolic of the Holy Spirit and the WORD of God; she was thirsty, not just for water, but for the Spirit and the Word.

John 4:13-14 - *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*

John 7:37-38 - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

Matthew 5:6 – *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*