

GENESIS

(BERE'SHEET)¹

CHAPTER 16: **1** And Sarai, the woman of Abram, did not bring forth to him. And there *was* to her a *house*-servant^f, an Egyptian, and her name *was* Hagar; **2** and Sarai said toward Abram, “Look! please—YHVH has held me back from bringing forth, come please—toward my *house*-servant^f; perhaps I will be built from her.” And Abram hearkened to² the voice of Sarai. **3** And Sarai, the woman of Abram, took Hagar the Egyptian, her *house*-servant^f, from the end of³ ten years of the sitting of Abram in the land of Canaan, and she gave her to Abram her man,⁴ to him for a woman. **4** And he came toward Hagar, and she became pregnant; and she saw that she had become pregnant, and she made light of her strong one⁵ in her eyes. **5** And Sarai said toward Abram, “My violence *be* upon you!⁶ **I** gave my *house*-servant^f into your bosom, and she saw that she had become pregnant, and I am made light in her eyes. YHVH will judge between me and between you.” **6** And Abram said toward Sarai, “Look!—your servant^f *is* in your hand, do to her the good in your eyes.”⁷ And Sarai brought her low and she fled from her face^p. **7** And the messenger of YHVH found her by the spring of water in the desert, by the spring on the way of Shur. **8** And he said, “Hagar, *house*-servant^f of Sarai, where from this have you come and toward where⁸ are you walking?” And she said, “From the face^p of Sarai my strong one^f I am fleeing.” **9** And the messenger of YHVH said toward her, “Return to your strong one^f and make yourself low^c under her hands. **10** And the messenger of YHVH said to

¹ The books of the Hebrew Bible are named from their opening words: here *Bere'sheet*, meaning “At *the* first of”

² Lit “heard to.”

³ I.e., after.

⁴ Heb *'ish*.

⁵ Heb *geveret* is the feminine form of the masculine *gever*, which means a “strong one.” Here it means something like “mistress,” the feminine of master.

⁶ I.e., the injury or damage. Heb *chamas* is a strong word, so that this exclamation has the tone of a curse.

⁷ I.e., as it seems good to you.

⁸ Lit “where-ward.”

her, “Making abundant^c—I will *surely* made abundant^{c!}⁹—your seed, and it will not be counted from abundance.” **11** And the messenger of YHVH said toward her, “Look!—you *are* pregnant, and bringing forth a son, and you will call his name Ishmael,¹⁰ because YHVH has hearkened toward your lowness.¹¹ **12** And *he* will be a wild ass soil-creature, his hand against all, and the hand of all against him; and against the face^{p12} of all his brothers he will dwell.” **13** And she called the name of YHVH the one speaking toward her, “You *are* EL-roi”;¹³ for she said, “Have I also here¹⁴ looked after the one who sees me?” **14** Therefore he called the well Beer-lahai-roi;¹⁵ look!—between Kadesh and between Bered. **15** And Hagar brought forth a son for Abram, and Abram called the name of his son, that Hagar brought forth, Ishmael. **16** And Abram *was* a son of eighty years^s and six years at the bringing forth of Hagar of Ishmael to Abraham.

⁹ Double use of the verb indicates emphasis.

¹⁰ “God will hear.”

¹¹ Same verbal root as in vv. 6, 9, thus a play on this idea.

¹² Or “upon the face of,” possibly suggesting defiance, but perhaps only meaning “to the east of.”

¹³ Meaning, “EL who sees.”

¹⁴ I.e., in this direction.

¹⁵ Meaning, “well to the living one seeing me.”