

A cosmic background featuring a view of Earth from space, with the Moon in the upper center. The scene is filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy, set against a deep blue and purple color palette. The text is overlaid on this background.

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

DANGEROUS DETOURS: ABRAM AND HAGAR **GENESIS 16**

Or, why in the world would they do that?

- Remember that the consequences of sin can last a lifetime—and can lead to horrific detours in God’s plan for our lives.
- Sarah felt the shame of her own barrenness, and seeing no other *naturalistic, humanistic solution*, she made a decision to take the matter into her own hands. And dumb as a hot rock, Abram said, “*Sure, Honey, anything you say.*”

CONSEQUENCES

- God never asks us to simply accept the lesser of two evils; His ways and will are perfect. **Job 36:4; Isa. 55:8-9**

In concert: Man's choices and God's will—*the power that makes us able to know God's will and make the right choices.*

- Is the same power that makes us able to **do God's will**; and both the plan and power come from God.
- Take God out of that equation and you are left with only you! And, the consequences of your decisions.

BEWARE OF YOUR OWN WISDOM

This painful detour that Abraham and Sarah made in their pilgrim walk was a detour that brought conflict not only into their home, but also into the world.

- What we call today “the Arab-Israeli conflict” or the “conflict in the Middle East” began right here.
- It’s a good lesson for God’s people about walking by faith and waiting for God to fulfill His promises . . . in His way and in His time.

THE DETOUR: STEP BY STEP

- 1. By faith, they waited on God! v. 1a**
- 2. In the flesh, they schemed against God. v. 1b-4a**
- 3. Then they fought fierce battles with everybody. v. 4b-6**
 - Once you stop fighting with God and with yourself, you will have an easier time not fighting with others.
 - The first step toward reconciliation with others is getting right with God.

SOME TERRIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. Sarah's solution was to blame her husband and mistreat her servant as she gave in and vented her anger.
2. Abraham's solution was to give in to his wife and abdicate spiritual headship in the home.
3. Hagar's solution was to run away from the problem and try to cover it up—a tactic we all learned from Adam and Eve. **Genesis 3:8**

EVERYONE SUBMITTING GEN. 16:7-16

James 4:1-10 explains why Christians fight and how Christians can be at peace. Don't give in to your flesh!

- Most of our battles within and without are caused because we obey one or all of our three enemies: the world (**James 4:4**), the flesh (**4:1**), and the devil (**4:7**).
- Abram, Sarah, and Hagar all had to ultimately submit to God.

WHEN WE WALK IN HIS WAYS, THEN WE EXPERIENCE THE FULL DEPTH OF HIS GRACE.