

Word Study Hagar H1904, G28, “The Ger” Which Means The Stranger

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Contents

Introduction	1
Hagar Verses.....	2
Chapter 16 of Genesis – Sarai, Hagar & Ismael.....	2
Gen 21:9-17 KJV	3
Gen 25:12 KJV	3
Gal 4:24-25 KJV.....	3
Word Study	4
H1904 Hagar.....	4
G28 Agar.....	4

Introduction

I’m writing this article along with a series of other articles that have the theme of one’s legal status.¹ The legal status of the first born is of utmost, if you will, of biblical proportion, so a detail study of this is important. The question of who gets the birth right is relevant with regard to Ishmael vs Isaac and also Esau vs Jacob.

This article focuses on Hagar who is the mother of Ishmael and Ishmael, physically speaking, is the first born son of Abram. More specifically, this article focuses on the meaning of Hagar.²

[Wikipedia](#) references Jewish sources which state “that ‘Hagar’ was a descriptive label meaning ‘stranger’³.”

I like what Wikipedia says and I like what Paul’s/Shaul’s states in his commentary found in the Book of Galatians, which is in my view, a legal treatise of the Mt. Sinai covenant.

¹ See “Biblical-Word-Study-and-Commentary-on-ones-Legal-Status”, Article [#210](#)

² Strong’s doesn’t give us much to go on with regard to the meaning of the Hagar, it says “Of uncertain (perhaps foreign) derivation; *Hagar*, the mother of Ishmael”.

³ 21 "The Return of Hagar", commentary on Parshat Chayei Sarah, Chabad Lubavitch.

22 "Who Was Ketura?", Bar-Ilan University's Parashat Hashavua Study Center, 2003.

23 "Parshat Chayei Sarah", Torah Insights, Orthodox Union, 2002.

Hagar Verses

Here are all the verses that mention Hagar. It starts off after Genesis 15 which where the “covenant of the pieces” is found and is a most important chapter which I comment about frequently.

Genesis Chapter 16 – Sarai, Hagar & Ismael

Sarai, being barren, gives Hagar to Abram.

¹ Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name *was* Hagar. ² And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, YHVH hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. ³ And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

Hagar, being afflicted for despising her mistress, runs away.

⁴ And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. ⁵ And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong *be* upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: YHVH judge between me and thee. ⁶ But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid *is* in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

An angel commands her to return and submit herself,

⁷ And the angel of YHVH found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. ⁹ And the angel of YHVH said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

promises her a numerous posterity,

¹⁰ And the angel of YHVH said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. ¹¹ And the angel of YHVH said unto her, Behold, thou *art* with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because YHVH hath heard thy affliction.

and shows their character and condition.

¹² And he will be a wild man; his hand *will be* against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

Hagar names the place, and returns to Sarai.

¹³ And she called the name of YHVH that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me? ¹⁴ Wherefore the well was called Beerlahairoi; behold, *it is* between Kadesh and Bered.

Ishmael is born.

¹⁵ And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.

The age of Abram.

¹⁶ And Abram *was* fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

Gen 21:9-17 – Hagar and Ishmael sent away

⁹ And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. ¹⁰ Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac. ¹¹ And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son. ¹² And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. ¹³ And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he *is* thy seed. ¹⁴ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave *it* unto Hagar, putting *it* on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. ¹⁵ And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. ¹⁶ And she went, and sat her down over against *him* a good way off, as it were a bowshot: for she said, Let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against *him*, and lift up her voice, and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he *is*.

Gen 25:12 – The generations of Ishmael

¹² Now these *are* the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's handmaid, bare unto Abraham:

Gal 4:24-25 – Paul/Shaul

²⁴ Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. ²⁵ For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

Word Study

H1904 Hagar

הגר

Of uncertain (perhaps foreign) derivation; *Hagar*, the mother of Ishmael: - Hagar.

KJC hagar, 12 [Gen_16:1](#), [Gen_16:3-4](#) (2), [Gen_16:8](#), [Gen_16:15-16](#) (3), [Gen_21:9](#), [Gen_21:14](#), [Gen_21:17](#) (2), [Gen_25:12](#)

G28 Agar

Ἄγαρ

Of Hebrew origin [[H1904](#)]; *Hagar*, the concubine of Abraham: - Hagar.

KJC: agar, 2 [Gal_4:24-25](#) (2)