

FATHER OF MANY NATIONS

Genesis 16–17

Key Verse: 17:5

1. What promise had God given Abram (15:4)? What did Sarai suggest to him now, and what does this show about her (16:1–2)? How did Abram respond, and why (3–4a)? How did Hagar change, what did Sarai do, and why (4b–5)? How did Abram handle this, and with what outcome (6)? What lessons can we learn here?
2. How and why did God’s angel help Hagar (7–9)? What did he promise her, and what did her son’s name mean (10–12)? How did she respond, and what can we learn here about God (13–14)? How did things turn out, and how might these things have affected Abram (15–16)?
3. When did the Lord appear to Abram again (17:1a)? What did God tell him (1b–2), and why did he refer to himself as “God Almighty”? What does it mean to “walk before me and be blameless”? How did Abram respond, and why (3a)?
4. What was God’s greater plan for Abram (4)? What is the significance of changing his name to “Abraham” (5)? What else did God tell him about his plan, and what is most important here (6–8)?
5. How could Abraham keep this covenant, and how would it change his household (9–14)?¹ Why did God change his wife’s name (15–16)? How did Abraham respond, what did he ask, and why (17–18)? What did God tell him about his offspring (19–21)? What did Abraham do, and what does this tell us (22–27)?

¹ For the role of circumcision in the lives of Christians today, see: Ro2:28–29; Gal5:2–3,6; 6:15; Php3:3; Col2:11–12.