

**[Japan-Korea Koinonia] August 3, 2025**

**Daebang Church Pastor Gil Hyun-Ju**

**Scripture Passage: Genesis 16:1–6**

**Sermon Title: El Roi – The God Who Sees**

### **Genesis 16:1–16 (PowerPoint)**

This passage is a story of discord within Abram's household.

Sarai, Abram's wife, persecuted her female slave Hagar. Hagar could not endure the persecution and fled into the wilderness.

Why did such discord arise?

Because they were not able to wait for God's timing.

The Lord God had promised to give Abram a child, a descendant.

When we look at Genesis chapters 12 to 15, we see that God promised Abram three times (Genesis 12:7; 13:14–15; 15:2–5) that He would give him descendants (a son). Abram believed that promise.

### **Genesis 15:6 (PowerPoint)**

**Abram believed the Lord, and it was credited to him as righteousness.**

And yet, without any word, time simply passed by.

According to Genesis 16:3, it had already been ten years since Abram had settled in the land of Canaan.

Abram was 85 years old, and Sarai was 75.

How earnestly must Abram and Sarai have longed for a son to be given to them?

Moreover, because God Himself had promised to give one—And yet, there was no word at all.

Even Abram, who believed in God, must have become frustrated when he saw himself aging day by day. But looking at Scripture, Sarai seems to have become even more irritated and anxious.

And what did she do?

She gave the Egyptian slave Hagar to her husband and had her bear a son.

This became the cause of the discord.

They could not wait for God's time and tried to solve the problem in their own way.

Even though God had surely promised, they made the wrong choice of overturning that promise through human reasoning and interpretation.

Sarai may have doubted, thinking, "God did promise, but maybe He is not able to do it."

Or she may have thought, “Time is passing by like this, and my body is aging. It’s already too late.”

And so, she interpreted God’s promise in this way.

### **Genesis 16:2 (PowerPoint)**

Thus they made the wrong choice—an unfaithful choice. This became the cause of their misfortune.

I hope that you all may become people who believe in the Word as it is, endure, and are able to wait.

God’s timing is perfectly accurate—not early and not late. At the exact, appropriate time, He answers and fulfills.

Then the conflict between the two women began.

### **Genesis 16:4 (PowerPoint)**

“To despise (to look down on)” – Hebrew: *qalal*. To regard as low. To scorn.

Hagar became so proud that she forgot the fact that she was Sarai’s slave.

She acted as if she were Abram’s rightful wife. How arrogant she had become!

Of course Sarai did not remain silent.

### **Genesis 16:6 (PowerPoint)**

“She afflicted (tormented)” – Hebrew: *anah*. To mistreat. To trouble.

Hagar could not endure the mistreatment and fled into the wilderness.

**“Hagar” – a fugitive.**

All of this was the result of not being able to wait for God’s timing and trying to resolve things with human methods.

We must not alter or overturn God’s Word and promise through human thinking or interpretation.

I hope you will become a person who believes in the Word just as it is, endures, and waits.

Through today’s Word, there is one part we must absolutely remember.

God did not grant special grace only to Abram’s household. God also bestowed the same grace to the lowly servant woman Hagar, who had been cast out into the wilderness.

God is not One who only loves certain people, granting grace and help only to them.

God also saw the pain of the lowly servant woman who was mistreated by her master and driven out, and He gave grace to her. The Lord God does not discriminate. He is a just God.

**God came to seek out Hagar, who had fled into the wilderness.**

**Genesis 16:7–8 (PowerPoint)**

“By a spring on the way to Shur” – A spring that was in the wilderness of Shur. Shur was a desert area between Canaan and Egypt.

From this, we can understand that Hagar was trying to return to her own country, Egypt.

God came, having sought out Hagar, who was walking through the wilderness toward Egypt.

God came to an Egyptian female slave—not even one of the chosen people, the Israelites.

He listened in detail to her situation. “Where have you come from, and where are you going?”

And He told Hagar where she should go, and what she should do.

**Genesis 16:9 (PowerPoint)**

God taught Hagar the best path to take.

If she wandered in the wilderness, she could not survive. Moreover, she was carrying new life within her.

“Return to your mistress. Go back and submit. Endure and be patient. If you submit, even your mistress Sarai will change.”

God taught Hagar the best path by which she could live. And God blessed Hagar.

**Genesis 16:10–11 (PowerPoint)**

“You will give birth to a son and name him Ishmael.”

**“For the Lord has heard your affliction.** He will increase your descendants so that they will be too numerous to count.”

How great a comfort this word of God must have brought her.

Into her grief, which had multiplied a hundredfold, a thousandfold, He gave her courage.

Hagar, in a moment of great crisis and suffering in her life, met the God who came to seek her, taught her the path she should go, and blessed her. Hagar called this God by this name:

### Genesis 16:13 (PowerPoint)

**“The God who sees me”** – (Hebrew) *El Roi* “Roi” – to see, to search, to examine. Up to that point, Hagar had only recognized the Lord God as the God of Abram, the God of Sarai.

She had thought God was with Abram and Sarai only, that He was only on their side, that He blessed only them.

She thought that she, being of a lowly status, was someone abandoned; that no matter how hard she tried, because she was born a slave, her life could never improve or turn around. But God came seeking such a person as her.

He sought her out when she had fallen into crisis, taught her the way she should go, gave her comfort and courage, and blessed her.

Hagar could never forget the God she met in the wilderness.

The moment she encountered this God, her anger toward Sarai subsided. She gained the courage to return to the household she had thought she could never go back to.

And she called that God *El Roi* – “The God who sees me.”

The God who sees everything about me. My circumstances, sorrows, pain, wandering, crisis—He sees them all in detail.

And she called the well by the spring on the way to Shur, the place where she encountered God, *Beer-lahai-roi*.

### Genesis 16:14 (PowerPoint)

*Beer-lahai-roi* – “The well of the Living One who sees me.”

Having encountered God, Hagar returned.

### Genesis 16:15–16 (PowerPoint)

Abram accepted Hagar. Sarai did too. By the grace of the God who sees, all was restored.

The God of Abram and the God of Sarai also became the God of Hagar.

And that same God is also your God.

The God who sees us. Because He sees and searches, He knows everything about us.

### Psalm 139:1–4 (PowerPoint)

When we sit down, when we rise, when we speak. Our worries, anxieties, the things that trouble us, the things we suffer through. The way we agonize in our thoughts. Our hopes and desires.

Because He sees and knows all of them, He is able to answer even our cries. He helps, cares, and protects us.  
He guides us on the best path. He gives comfort, courage, and blesses us.

**Benediction: Psalm 139:1**