

## *A Message of Restoration and Divine Encounter*

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. All glory, honor, and power belong to Him forever. Amen.

Today, let us take a fresh look at the story of **Hagar**, Sarai's maidservant, found in **Genesis 16**. Her story is not just a historical event but a spiritual lesson about where and how we meet God in our distress.

### Hagar's Wilderness Experience

Hagar found herself in a desperate situation. After becoming pregnant by Abraham, at Sarai's request, conflict arose. Sarai mistreated her so harshly that Hagar fled into the wilderness.

*"Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her."*

(Genesis 16:6, NIV)

The wilderness, in biblical terms, is often a symbol of isolation, testing,

and divine encounter. Hagar, alone and pregnant, represents many of us who, when overwhelmed, seek to escape. Yet, even in the wilderness, God sees.

The Angel of the Lord Appears at the Spring

Hagar wandered into the desert, but Scripture highlights a significant detail:

*“The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.”*

(Genesis 16:7, NIV)

This “spring” is more than just a physical location it symbolically represents a place of divine refreshment, revelation, and encounter.

Only at the spring did the Angel of the Lord approach her and speak:

*“Then the angel of the Lord told her, ‘Go back to your mistress and submit to her.’”*

(Genesis 16:9, NIV)

*“The angel added, ‘I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count.’”*

(Genesis 16:10, NIV)

*“You shall name him Ishmael, for the Lord has heard of your misery.”*

(Genesis 16:11, NIV)

Theologically, many scholars interpret “the Angel of the Lord” here as a **Christophany** a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ, because He speaks with divine authority and promises blessings only God can give.

Why the Spring Matters Today

This story reveals a pattern: **God’s messengers and answers often come when we draw near to “living water”** a symbol of Christ Himself.

Jesus declared:

*“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

(John 4:13-14, NIV)

We live in a time when many people cry out to God:

“Lord, help me!”

“Lord, heal me!”

“Lord, bless me!”

But just like Hagar, if we are not spiritually located near the “spring” that is, in Christ we may miss the encounter.

What Is the “Spring” for Us Today?

In practical terms, **drawing near to the spring** means:

- Spending time in the Word of God (Psalm 1:2-3)

- Living in obedience to Christ's teachings (John 15:10)
- Maintaining a consistent prayer life (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Fellowship with other believers (Hebrews 10:25)
- Worship and sacrificial devotion (Romans 12:1)

We cannot expect angelic visitations, breakthroughs, or divine direction while we dwell far from Christ. **The angel met Hagar at the spring** not in her comfort zone or rebellion, but in a place of need, humility, and refreshment.

A Wake-Up Call to Believers

Many of us are busy in our careers, social media, entertainment, or weekend parties, but neglect the things of the Spirit. We cry out to God in trouble but fail to dwell near the source of life Jesus, the Living Water.

The Bible warns us about spiritual complacency in the **Laodicean church**, representing the final church age:

*"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot... So, because you are lukewarm neither hot nor cold I am about to spit you out of my mouth."*

(Revelation 3:15-16, NIV)

We are living in the final days. All prophetic signs concerning the return of Christ have been fulfilled (Matthew 24). The Church of today must return to the spring—Jesus Christ.

Are You Ready?

- Have you given your life to Christ?
- Are you walking in daily fellowship with Him?
- Do you want to be baptized in the name of **Jesus Christ**, as done in

the book of Acts (Acts 2:38)?

If your answer is yes or if you're seeking guidance on how to grow spiritually or join a fellowship please feel free to contact us:

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**May the Lord bless you richly. Shalom.**

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