

## **“Plan B”**

### **Abraham (Part 8)**

*“Woe to the rebellious children,’ says the LORD, ‘Who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin; Who walk to go down to Egypt, and have not asked My advice...’”*

*(Isaiah 30: 1-2a NKJV)*

### **The Flesh Proposal**

**Genesis 16:1-2** – (1) “Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. (2) And Sarai said to Abram, ‘Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.’ And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.”

### **The Two Worst Things**

**Genesis 16:3-4** – (3) “So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. (4) And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress.”

### **Rife with Strife**

**Genesis 16:5-6** – (5) “And Sarai said to Abram, ‘May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!’ (6) But Abram said to Sarai, ‘Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please.’ Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.”

<b>Our Plans are fraught with unintended consequences</b>
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### **(1) Be Led by the Holy Spirit**

“Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” (Galatians 3:2-3)

**“For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” (Romans 8:13-14)**

**(2) Consider what you place your confidence in**

**“For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh” (Philippians 3:3)**

**“But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV)**

**Questions to Ponder:**

- (1) Am I continuing to follow the last known command(s) of God, or do I follow my own whims and “great” ideas? (Prov. 28:26)**
- (2) Abraham yielded to the subtlety of his wife. Are there people that I assume are providing me good counsel but actually are not hearing from God at all?**
- (3) How can I get Godly counsel so that I am not left to the deceptive “fast-tracks of the flesh”? (Psalm 119:107; Eph. 4:11-14)**