

Study Questions: Genesis 15–17

1. What was the primary purpose for a woman's life, according to the ancient Hebrews?
2. What happened to Avram while God recited the covenant oath? What ominous thing did God tell Avram about his descendants? Why was the phrase "in oppression" important?
3. What was the Hebrews' understanding of the afterlife?
4. Who was Hagar and why did Sarai drive her away?
5. What were the social consequences for a woman who allowed a handmaiden to substitute for her as a birth mother or surrogate?
6. Who spoke to Hagar in the wilderness and what did he say?
7. What is the difference between the terms mal'ach and mal'ach Adonai?
8. What is the generally accepted meaning of the word Hebrew?
9. In Genesis 16 God changed Avram's name. What did the name Avram mean, and what did his new name, Avraham, mean?
10. How did the act of circumcision mirror covenantal protocol? What was the penalty for refusing circumcision?
11. What was the difference between the Israelites' "owning" and "possessing" the Promised Land?
12. How did Abraham feel about Ishmael?

