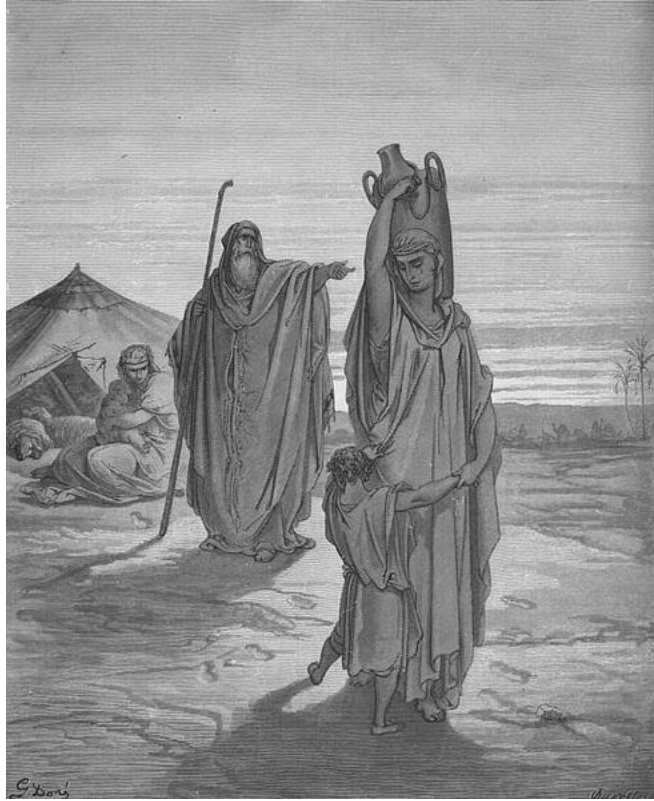# Conflict Resolution

Abraham and Sarah

Hagar and Ishmael

Conflicts are common, as unsavory as they may be. Conflict, i.e., "competitive or opposing actions of incompatibles: antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons," is a part of life, whether they be outside of one's control, or as a result of one's actions. When conflicts arise efforts are sought to find a Resolution, i.e., "the act of finding an answer or solution to a conflict,…an answer or solution to something," in order to establish peace among those involved.

The consideration of this segments conflict, and accompanying resolution involves a scenario brought to bear as a result of individuals attempting to "help" Jehovah accomplish that which had been previously promised, i.e., "And Abram said, O Lord Jehovah, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and he that shall be possessor of my house is Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold,

to me thou hast given no seed: and lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of Jehovah came unto him, saying, This man shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir" (Genesis 15:2-4).

Abram was seventy-five years of age when he departed out of Haran, and "went forth to go into the land of Canaan" (Genesis 12:2, 4-5), and "after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan," "Sarai, Abram's wife, bare him no children: and she had a handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, Jehovah hath restrained me from bearing; go in, I pray thee, unto my handmaid; it may be that I shall obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. And Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her handmaid...and gave her to Abram her husband to be his wife. And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived" (Genesis 16:1-4). "And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bare, Ishmael. And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram" (Genesis 16:15-16). For thirteen years Abram believed that Ishmael was the seed through which the promise was to be fulfilled.

"And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. And I will bless her, and moreover I will give thee a son of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be of her. Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is a hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? And Abraham said unto God, Oh that Ishmael might live before thee! And God said, Nay, but Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his seed after him" (Genesis 17:15-19).

Enter the Conflict: "And Jehovah visited Sarah as he had said, and Jehovah did unto Sarah as he had spoken. And Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called

the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. And Abraham was a hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him. And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh. Every one that heareth will laugh with me. And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham, that Sarah should give children suck? For I have borne him a son in his old age. And the child grew, and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this handmaid and her son. For the son of this handmaid shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight on account of his son" (Genesis 21:1–11). In our next segment our attention will focus on the Resolution.