

Part II: The Ongoing War between Ishmael & Isaac, Gen 25:12-16, 18; Gal 4:29; the Covenants Go through Isaac, Not Ishmael; Abraham's Use of the Faith-Rest Drill

The pain of the woman's pregnancy and childbirth is a temporary experience but the pain and misery that has come to Israel because of the sons of Hagar is unmeasured:

Genesis 25:12 - Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham;

v. 13 - And these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in order of their birth: Nebaioth \ne-bā' yoth\, the first-born of Ishmael, and Kedar \kē' der\ [It is through Kedar that Muslim genealogists trace the descent of Mohammed from Ishmael.⁵] and Adbeel \ad' be-el\ and Mibsam \mib' sam\

v. 14 - and Mishma \mish' ma\ and Dumah \dū' ma\ and Massa \mas' a\,

v. 15 - Hadad \hā' dad\ and Tema \tē' ma\, Jetur \jē' tur\, Naphish \nā' fish\ and Kedemah \ked' e-ma\.

v. 16 - These are the sons of Ishmael and these are their names, by their villages, and by their camps; twelve princes according to their tribes.

Genesis 25:18 - And they settled from Havilah \hav' i-la\ to Shur which is east of Egypt as one goes toward Assyria; he settled in defiance of all his relatives.

Ishmael's entire family line settled between the Nile and the Euphrates rivers and did so in defiance of their relatives, i.e., their Hebrew first cousins. This is the origin of anti-Semitism and since that time the sons of Hagar have been the major source of anti-Semitism as they habitually and insatiably persecute the Jew. According to Paul it continues to this day:

Galatians 4:29 -Just as at that time [**Genesis 21:9-10: Ishmael's persecution of Isaac**] the one born according to the flesh [Ishmael by Hagar] kept on persecuting [inceptive imperfect active indicative of διώκω, dīōkō] the one born according to the Holy Spirit [Isaac by Sarah] so also it is the case today [the sons of Hagar continue to persecute the sons of the Sarah].

The verb διώκω, dīōkō is an inceptive imperfect tense. The inceptive imperfect signifies the initiation of a process and denotes the beginning of an action that continues without implying anything as to its completion. Paul indicates that this conflict continued throughout the dispensation of Israel and continues unabated in the Church Age: "so also it is the case today."

The sons of Hagar are among the Arabs of today. They are ensconced in the real estate promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, all three of whom fulfilled the eternal life clause of the Abrahamic and Palestinian covenants.

The sons of Hagar, from Ishmael and, allegedly, Kedar, down to this day were never the recipients of the Abrahamic and Palestinian covenants nor have those who have followed the teachings of Islam since the seventh century A.D. complied with the eternal life clauses of these covenants through faith alone in Christ alone.

⁵ A. S. Fulton. "Kedar." In *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*. Gen. ed. James Orr. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 3:1790.

Therefore, even though they possess the land at present, their progeny will be permanently cast off the land and the earth at the Second Advent.

While they are banished to Torments, the believer-Jews out of the Tribulation will be established back into the land by the Lord where He will set up the capital of His Millennial government in Jerusalem. This is the very site where the Dome of the Rock now stands in anti-Semitic defiance of Judaism.

However, until the Second Advent, the sons of Hagar will habitually persecute the sons of Sarah for they are galled over the fact that they were excluded from the covenants and at present are viciously bitter over the Jews' paltry presence in what is erroneously called Palestine.

A quote from Hassan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah, in 2006:

"If they (the Jews) all gather in Israel it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide."⁶

NOTE: This entire article is posted below on pages 8-12.

The war which was fomented in Genesis still rages today. There is no solution short of the Lord's return, yet future.

Abraham finally acquired a clear understanding of his destiny and the promise of an heir from his own loins became a reality in:

Genesis 21:1 - Then the Lord took note of Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had promised.

v. 2 - So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him.

v. 3 - Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.

35. These passages catalog the sequence of events and the Lord's repetition of the Abrahamic Covenant to Abraham which resulted in Abraham becoming fully convinced that the promise was true.

Romans 4:21 -And having been fully convinced that what God himself had promised He is able also to accomplish.

36. Again, of what Abraham was fully convinced is seen in the relative pronoun **ὃς, hos** plus the perfect middle indicative of the verb:

ἐπαγγέλλω, epangellō -

"to promise"; "that he Himself had promised"

perfect: Iterative, denotes a process that is completed at intervals rather than continuously. It is the tense of repeated action. Abraham was given the promise of an heir on more than one occasion so that over the course of the process the doctrine was poured into his soul so that he became fully convinced of its fulfillment.

middle: Indirect, lays stress on the agent as producing the action rather than participating in its results. God and His promise are the sources of the action.

indicative: Declarative, a statement of fact.

37. Abraham came to believe that whatever God promised He is also able to perform, the present active indicative of the verb **εἰμί, eimi** plus the word for divine omnipotence, **δυνατός, dunatos**.

⁶ Deborah Passner. "Hassan Nasrallah: In His Own Words," <http://www.frontpagemag.com>. This article is posted in its entirety on pages 8-12.

present: Static, a condition that is assumed as perpetually existing. God is power. He is omnipotent. He is eternally able to do whatsoever He pleases. And when He issues a promise it is backed by His integrity, His justice, His veracity, His immutability, and his omnipotence

active: The justice of God produces the action of fulfilling the promise through the grace pipeline to Abraham's imputed righteousness.

indicative: Declarative; a statement of fact.

38. Abraham was fully convinced that what God had the power to perform He would also "accomplish": the final verb of the verse which is the aorist active infinitive of **ποιέω, ποιεῶ**.

aorist: Gnostic, denotes something that is axiomatic; a generally accepted truth that may be regarded as so fixed in its certainty that it is described as though it were an actual occurrence.

active: God produces the action from His justice to Abraham's imputed righteousness.

infinitive: This is what results when a believer locks into the integrity of God, the grace of God, and the power of God. Abraham believed God would do what He said to such a degree that he regarded it as an accomplished fact.

39. To do this, Abraham utilized the primary asset of his dispensation's spiritual life, the faith-rest technique.

Romans 4:18 - Abraham, who beyond having confidence of sexual ability, believed in the confidence of its fulfillment in order that he might become the father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "So shall your descendants become" [**Genesis 17:5**].

v. 19 - And so, not becoming weak in that faith, he completely understood his own body which had received sexual death when he was about a hundred years old, and the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

Romans 4: 20 - With reference to the promise of God, Abraham did not stagger in unbelief but was invigorated [**ἐνδυναμῶ, endunamoō**] by power poured into him by means of doctrine, giving glory to God.

v. 21 - And having been fully convinced [**πληροφορέω, plērophoreō**] that what God himself had promised He is able also to accomplish.

40. Principles from Romans 4:18-21:

- 1) Abraham did not make himself strong in faith nor did he convince himself that God would fulfill His promise.
- 2) In verse 20 we find the verb **ἐνδυναμῶ, endunamoō**, "to become strong" or "invigorated," is in the passive voice.
- 3) In verse 21 we find another verb, **πληροφορέω, plērophoreō**, "having been fully convinced," is also in the passive voice.
- 4) Abraham as the subject receives the action of these verbs from an outside Source.
- 5) As a result of information gathered from this outside Source Abraham (1) was invigorated by doctrine poured into him and (2) reached a confident conclusion that what God promised He was able to accomplish.

41. Abraham's execution of the faith-rest drill:

- 1) **Stage 1:** Claiming the Promises. He was able to concentrate on the various promises that the Lord revealed to him that we classify as the Abrahamic and Palestinian Covenants:

Genesis 12:2 - "I [the Lord] will make you [Abram] a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing;

Genesis 15:5 - And He took Abram outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to Abram, "So shall your descendents be."

Genesis 15:18 - On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt [the Nile] as far as the great river, the river Euphrates [in Iraq]:

Genesis 17:18 - And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might be my heir blessed by You!"

v. 19 - And God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac [יִשְׂחָק: *yischaq: laughter*]; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

Genesis 17:21 - "My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year."

Note that the promise in Genesis 17:19 is given to Isaac, its duration is eternal, and it is passed on to all his descendants after him. This eternally excludes Ishmael and all his progeny from this covenant.

- 2) **Stage 2:** Doctrinal rationales. With tranquility of soul provided by confidence in the promises, Abraham was able to mix his faith with various doctrinal rationales that were pertinent to his situation.

The modus operandi in the faith-rest drill is to reduce the complex to the simple. Complex A for Abraham was the fact he was sterile and from human viewpoint it was a hopeless situation.

Complex B required him to draw from his inventory of ideas those doctrines that could reduce the complex to the simple. He did this through doctrinal rationales under the following principles understood by Abraham:

"God has provided me a simple promise and by faith I must claim that promise. With a stabilized soul I must move to Complex B: my inventory of principles and doctrines that apply to my circumstance and arrive at doctrinal conclusions."

Here are some examples of Abraham's doctrinal rationales:

Omniscience: "God knows all that is knowable. He knew in eternity past that He would select me as the line of Messiah and would miraculously preserve that line regardless of the fact I am sterile."

Omnipotence: "Since God is all powerful, He is able to keep His promise regardless of the fact I consider my situation to be hopeless."

Veracity: "God is truth and therefore He cannot lie, therefore, since He promised me an heir, He will make it come to pass.

Immutability: "God cannot go back on His Word or change His mind once His Word is given. I will have an heir from my own loins through Sarah.

Integrity: "God is righteous and therefore perfect. God is just and therefore fair. God is love and therefore virtuous. He will provide for me an heir by means of grace."

- 3) **Stage 3:** Doctrinal Conclusion. The Complex Is Reduced to the Simple.

Romans 4:21b - ... what God himself had promised He is able also to accomplish.

42. Without doctrine in his soul, Abraham would have had nothing on which to concentrate in Stage 2. Without doctrine on which to concentrate, he could not have reached a doctrinal conclusion in Stage 3.
43. No truth means no power. No power means weakness. Weakness means insecurity. Insecurity leads to self-centeredness. Self-centeredness motivates expediency. Expediency leads to a frantic search for happiness. A frantic search for happiness led Abraham to commit adultery with Hagar which led to the birth of Ishmael. The birth of Ishmael led to the twelve tribes of Arabia. The twelve tribes of Arabia have from their inception to the present day sought to destroy the sons of Sarah. Some Christians have, sad to say, engaged in anti-Semitism, but the Arabs invented it.
44. PRINCIPLE: The integrity of God was more real to Abraham than his hopeless situation. Therefore, God, Who is invisible and His Word which is ethereal, are the only realities in life, whereas those things which are visible are abstractions which often blind people to the only source of truth.

**Hassan Nasrallah: In His Own Words
By Deborah Passner
CAMERA.org | August 7, 2006**

Since February 1992, Hassan Nasrallah has headed Lebanon's Hezbollah (or "Party of God") as Secretary-General of the Iranian-backed terrorist group, reportedly receiving \$100-200 million of funding from Iran and other supporters in the Arab world.

Nasrallah is virulently opposed to recognizing the legitimacy of Israel, terming the country a "cancerous entity" of "ultimate evil" whose "annihilation ... is a definite matter." As leader of Hezbollah, he has used its resources to foment violence in the region by inciting, supporting, and funding terrorist attacks on Israel, both by Hezbollah and Hamas.

Nasrallah's Background

In a recent interview with the *Washington Post*, Nasrallah revealed his early ambition:

Ever since I was 9 years old, I had plans for the day when I would start doing this this When I was 10 or 11 [I would say] that I'm a cleric, you need to pray behind me. (July 16, 2006)

Religion seems to have shaped the 46 year old Shiite cleric's life. Nasrallah, who claims to be a descendant of the Muslim prophet Mohammed and whose name means "victory of God," was born in 1960 in Beirut to parents of modest means. The eldest of nine children, Nasrallah was fascinated by the Koran from an early age. When civil war broke out in Beirut in 1975, the 15-year-old and his family were forced to move to south to Bassouriyeh, Lebanon. There he met the the religious leader Moussa Al Sadr and joined his Amal movement, a Shiite militia in south Lebanon. At sixteen, Nasrallah traveled to Najaf, Iraq to continue his study of Islam. He became the protégé of Sheikh Abbas Musawi, a fellow Lebanese who would eventually become the leader of Hezbollah. In 1978, along with hundreds of other radical Lebanese clerics, Nasrallah was expelled from Iraq. He returned to Lebanon to study and teach at a school established by Musawi, and became deeply involved with Amal.

In 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon, Iran sent Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to train Lebanese groups to attack Israel and to eventually create an Islamic state in Lebanon. Musawi and Nasrallah left Amal to form a new group which would become Hezbollah. Nasrallah maintained close ties with Iran and moved there in 1987 to continue his Islamic studies. After returning two years later, when hostilities intensified between rival factions in Lebanon, Nasrallah quickly rose through the ranks of Hezbollah, becoming leader of the organization after Israel assassinated Musawi in February 1992.

Nasrallah and Jews

Within a month of Nasrallah's taking over as leader, Hezbollah (with the help of Iranian intelligence) bombed the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 and injuring over 200. The next attack perpetrated by Hezbollah—again with Iranian help—was the bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, killing 86 and injuring over 200.

The widening arena of Hezbollah's attacks stemmed from Nasrallah's perception that Jews anywhere are legitimate targets. In fact, Nasrallah has said:

If they (Jews) all gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of going after them worldwide. (*Daily Star*, Oct. 23, 2002)

Shiite scholar Amal Saad-Ghorayeb analyzed the anti-Jewish roots of Hezbollah ideology in her book *Hezbollah: Politics & Religion*. In it, she quotes Hassan Nasrallah describing his antipathy toward Jews:

If we searched the entire world for a person more cowardly, despicable, weak and feeble in psyche, mind, ideology and religion, we would not find anyone like the Jew. Notice, I do not say the Israeli. (*New Yorker*, Oct. 14, 2002)

Nasrallah also incorporates anti-Semitic rhetoric in speeches. For example, he has characterized Jews as the "grandsons of apes and pigs" and "Allah's most cowardly and greedy creatures." (MEMRI: Al-Manar, Feb. 3, 2006)

Despite his anti-Semitic invective, there are few references to this in the mainstream media.

Nasrallah and Israel

Hezbollah's attacks against Israel have escalated under Nasrallah's leadership. In 1993, a year after he became the leader of Hezbollah, 26 Israeli soldiers were killed (twice as many as the year before). The group fired almost 150 Katyushas in 1993, and more than doubled that number in 1996 when it sent nearly 500 rockets into Israel. As a result, Israeli casualties from Hezbollah attacks continued to mount. In 1997, nearly forty Israeli soldiers were killed battling Hezbollah. Suicide bombings and other terrorist attacks by the group took a toll on Israelis, and the group was largely credited with driving Israel out of Lebanon in 2000, an event regarded as Israel's only defeat by an Arab group. Nasrallah's Lebanon success and the fact that his eldest son, Hadi, fought and died while confronting Israel in 1997 heightened the respect for the Hezbollah leader in the region.

In an oft-quoted speech just after Israel pulled out of southern Lebanon in May 2000, Hassan Nasrallah vividly described his view of the Jewish state as fragile and easily destroyed despite outward appearances of strength:

O people, our beloved and our dear brothers in Palestine, I want to tell you that this Israel, which possesses nuclear weapons and the most powerful air force in the region, by God, it is weaker than a spider web (May 26, 2000)

Just a few days later, Nasrallah elaborated on Hezbollah's goals:

One of the central reasons for creating Hizbullah was to challenge the Zionist program in the region. Hizbullah still preserves this principle, and when an Egyptian journalist visited me after the liberation and asked me if the destruction of Israel and the liberation of Palestine and Jerusalem were Hizbullah's goal, I replied: "That is the principal objective of Hizbullah, and it is no less sacred than our [ultimate] goal. The generation that lived through the creation of this entity is still alive. This generation watches documentaries and reads documents that show that the land conquered was called Palestine, not Israel." We face an entity that conquered the land of another people, drove them out of their land, and committed horrendous massacres. As we see, this is an illegal state; it is a cancerous entity and the root of all the crises and wars and cannot be a factor in bringing about a true and just peace in this region. Therefore, we cannot acknowledge the existence of a state called Israel, not even far in the future, as some people have tried to suggest. Time does not cancel the legitimacy of the Palestinian claim. (Hasan Nasrallah, interview, Egyptian television, June 2, 2000).

Hezbollah's tactics became a model for other terrorist groups confronting a strong enemy. Nasrallah explained to a *Washington Post* reporter that "The Israeli Air Force could destroy the Lebanese army within hours ... but cannot do this with us ... we exercise guerilla warfare" (July 16, 2006).

Nasrallah sought to inspire the Palestinians with Hezbollah's success against the Israelis. "Palestinians," he said, need to "struggle for their freedom ... and Lebanon is a good example." He said: "We have liberated Lebanon, next we'll liberate Jerusalem." He urged Arabs to "put a knife in your shirt, then get close to an Israeli occupier and stab him." (Nightline, Oct. 19, 2000)

Perhaps, not surprisingly, the Palestinians launched their deadliest assault against Israel in September 2000 only a few months after Israeli forces left Lebanon.

Nasrallah, Incitement, and Al-Manar TV

Incitement was always part and parcel of Hezbollah's strategy. In an interview with *Al-Safir*, Nasrallah described his priorities and methods in the first months of Hezbollah's formation:

The main effort at the time went into mustering and attracting young men and setting up military camps

The second effort was spreading the word among the people, first, in a bid to raise their morale, and second to instill in them a sense of animosity towards the enemy, coupled with a spirit of resistance...this required us to use the language of indoctrination rather than realpolitik. People then were not in need of political analysis, they were in need of being incited and goaded. (Hala Jaber, Hezbollah Born With a Vengeance, Columbia University Press, 1997, pp. 49-50)

Nasrallah purveys his message via Hezbollah's own television network, Al-Manar, a primary engine of incitement to violence against Jews, Israelis and Americans. Al Manar's stated mission is to "wage psychological warfare against the Zionist enemy." This is often done by glorifying attacks, particularly suicide missions against Israel. Last year, Nasrallah appeared on Al-Manar encouraging "martyrdom" among children, saying:

How can death become joyous? How can death become happiness? When Al-Hussein asked his nephew Al-Qassem, when he had not yet reached puberty: "How do you like the taste of death, son?" He answered that it was sweeter than honey. How can the foul taste of death become sweeter than honey? Only through conviction, ideology, and faith, through belief, and devotion.

We do not want to...leave our homeland to Israel... Therefore, we are not interested in our own personal security. On the contrary, each of us lives his days and nights hoping more than anything to be killed for the sake of Allah. (MEMRI: Al-Manar TV , Feb. 18-19, 2005)

In May, Nasrallah appeared on Al-Manar TV to explain that "our nation's willingness to sacrifice their blood, souls, children, fathers, and families" is an advantage over the Jews "who guard their lives." (MEMRI: Al-Manar TV on May 23, 2006.)

Nasrallah and the Palestinian-Israeli dispute

Nasrallah has inflamed tensions between Israel and the Palestinians by using Hezbollah's resources to assist Palestinians attack on Israelis. He told AP that Hezbollah supplied Palestinian terrorists with weapons until 2001 when Israel intercepted a boat with supplies bound for the West Bank. Hezbollah, he acknowledged, continued to provide other forms of support for Palestinian terrorists including "financial, political and media support." (AP, April 26, 2006)

Nasrallah has denounced every peace agreement made between Israel and the Palestinians, instead encouraging them to be violently rejected. He believes that "lands can [only] be returned through Holy War, martyrdom, blood, sacrifices and bullets." (*Chicago Tribune*, Nov. 27, 2000)

For example, when the Palestinians were considering modifying their charter by taking out references to Israel's illegitimacy, the Hezbollah leader responded:

The Palestinian National Charter will live on as long as there is a knife in a Palestinian woman's hand with which she stabs an Israeli soldier or settler ... as long as there are suicide bombers in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv ... and as long as there is a child who throws a stone in the face of an Israeli soldier. (AP, Dec. 12, 1998)

Nasrallah and the Palestinians in Lebanon

While Nasrallah urges Palestinians to die fighting for their "rights" and "freedom" against Israel, he rejects giving citizenship rights to Palestinians who live in Lebanon:

The Lebanese refuse to give the Palestinians residing in Lebanon Lebanese citizenship, and we refuse their resettlement in Lebanon. There is Lebanese consensus on this...we thank God that we all agree on one clear and definite result; namely, that we reject the resettlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon. (BBC Monitoring: Al-Manar TV, Nov. 5, 2003)

Anti-Americanism

While Israel is the main focus of Hezbollah's enmity, Nasrallah's anti-American sentiments are continuously on display. He fuels anti-American attitudes in the Middle East with charges such as his statement that Americans "have outdone Hitler." (AP, Oct. 2, 2001) During one TV broadcast, Nasrallah accused the US of many "sponsored plans for extermination, eradication and genocide" against the people in the Middle East. (BBC Monitoring: Al-Manar, Feb. 8, 2002)

A 2002 appearance on Al-Manar illustrates his deep hostility toward the United States:

Let the entire world hear me. Our hostility to the Great Satan [America] is absolute ...

I conclude my speech with the slogan that will continue to reverberate on all occasions so that nobody will think that we have weakened. Regardless of how the world has changed after 11 September, Death to America will remain our reverberating and powerful slogan: Death to America. (BBC Monitoring: Al-Manar, Sep. 27, 2002)

Nasrallah boasts about Hezbollah's designation as a terrorist group by America:

It is our pride that the Great Satan (U.S.) and the head of despotism, corruption and arrogance in modern times considers us as an enemy that should be listed in the terrorism list...I say to every member of Hezbollah (should) be happy and proud that your party has been placed on the list of terrorist organizations as the U.S. view it. (United Press International, Nov. 4, 2001)

At a rally in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Nasrallah encouraged worldwide suicide bombing against the West:

Martyrdom operations - suicide bombings - should be exported outside Palestine. I encourage Palestinians to take suicide bombings worldwide. Don't be shy about it. (*Washington Times*, Dec. 6, 2002)

Global Reach

The group is reported to have worldwide influence and reach. According to Magnus Ranstorp, the director of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland:

It [Hezbollah] has served as a role model for terror groups around the world ... Al Qaeda learned the value of choreographed violence from Hezbollah

According to both American and Israeli intelligence officials, the group maintains floating "day camps" for terrorist training throughout the Bekaa Valley. ... In some of them, the instructors are supplied by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and Iran's Ministry of Intelligence. In the past twenty years, terrorists from such disparate organizations as the Basque separatist group ETA, the Red Brigades, the Kurdistan Workers' Party, and the Irish Republican Army have been trained in these camps" (*New Yorker*, Oct. 14, 2002)

Nasrallah and his well-funded terrorist organization have promoted violence worldwide and have helped thwart peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

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