

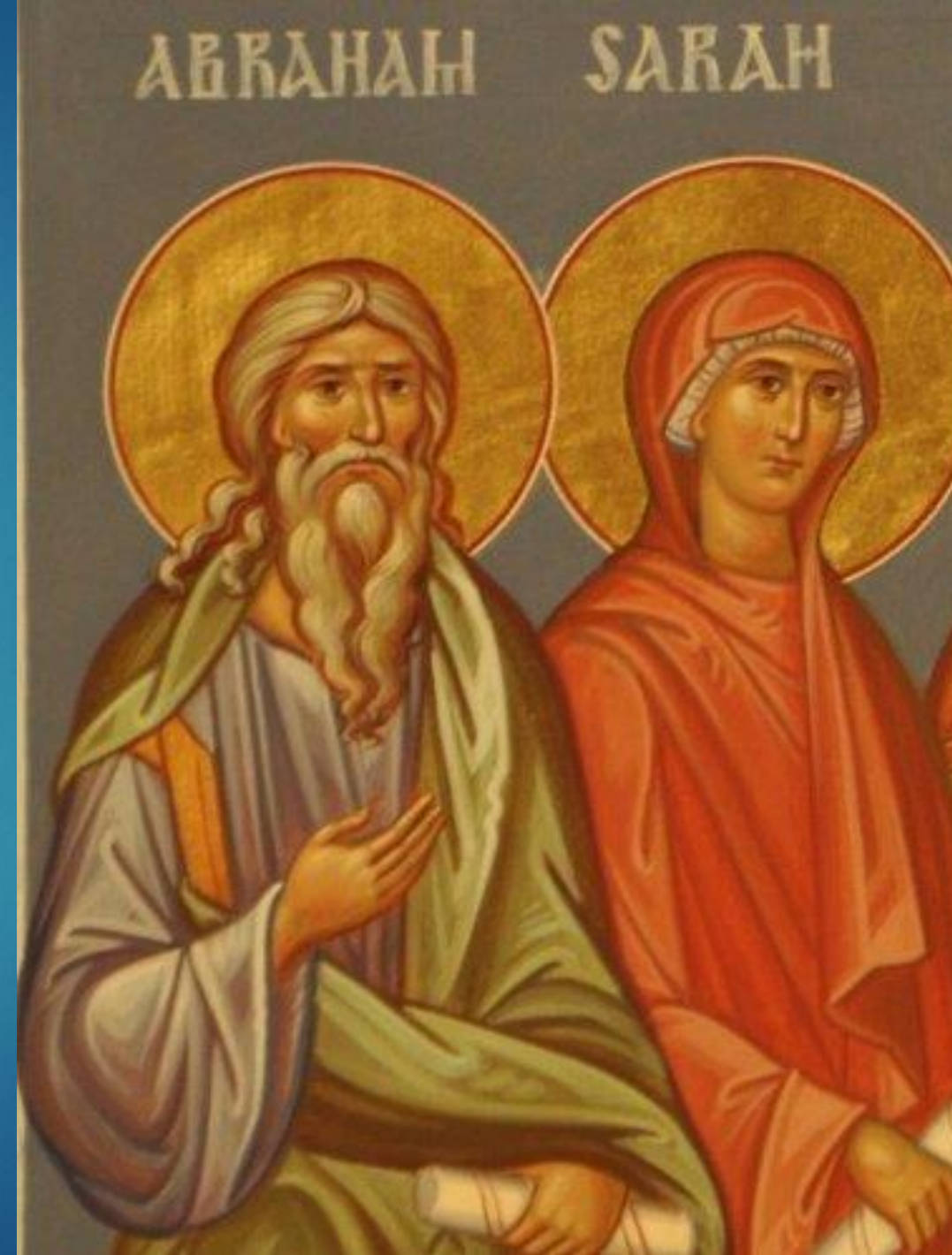
The Promise Continues. . .

Genesis 16-22

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Hagar the Egyptian Slave

- ▶ How did Hagar become part of Abraham's household?
- ▶ A possible meaning for the name "Hagar"
- ▶ "Hagar" as slave

Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar: Traditional Marriage Contracts

Assyrian marriage contract—

“If Subeto does not conceive and does not give birth, she may take a slave as a substitute in her position, she may place her. She [the slave] will bring sons into being and the sons will be her (Subeto’s) sons. If she loves the slave, she may keep her. If she hates her, she may sell her.”



Sarah “Afflicts” Hagar
(Gen 16:6)

Promises made to Hagar

- ▶ Progeny/Offspring

- ▶ “Ishmael” --

Assurance that God hears Hagar. . . the Egyptian . . . the slave girl

The Future for Ishmael... Hope or Dismay

- ▶ Verse 12a "He shall be a wild ass (onager; Job 39) of the steppe lands."
- ▶ Verse 12b Challenges
- ▶ Verse 12d Location

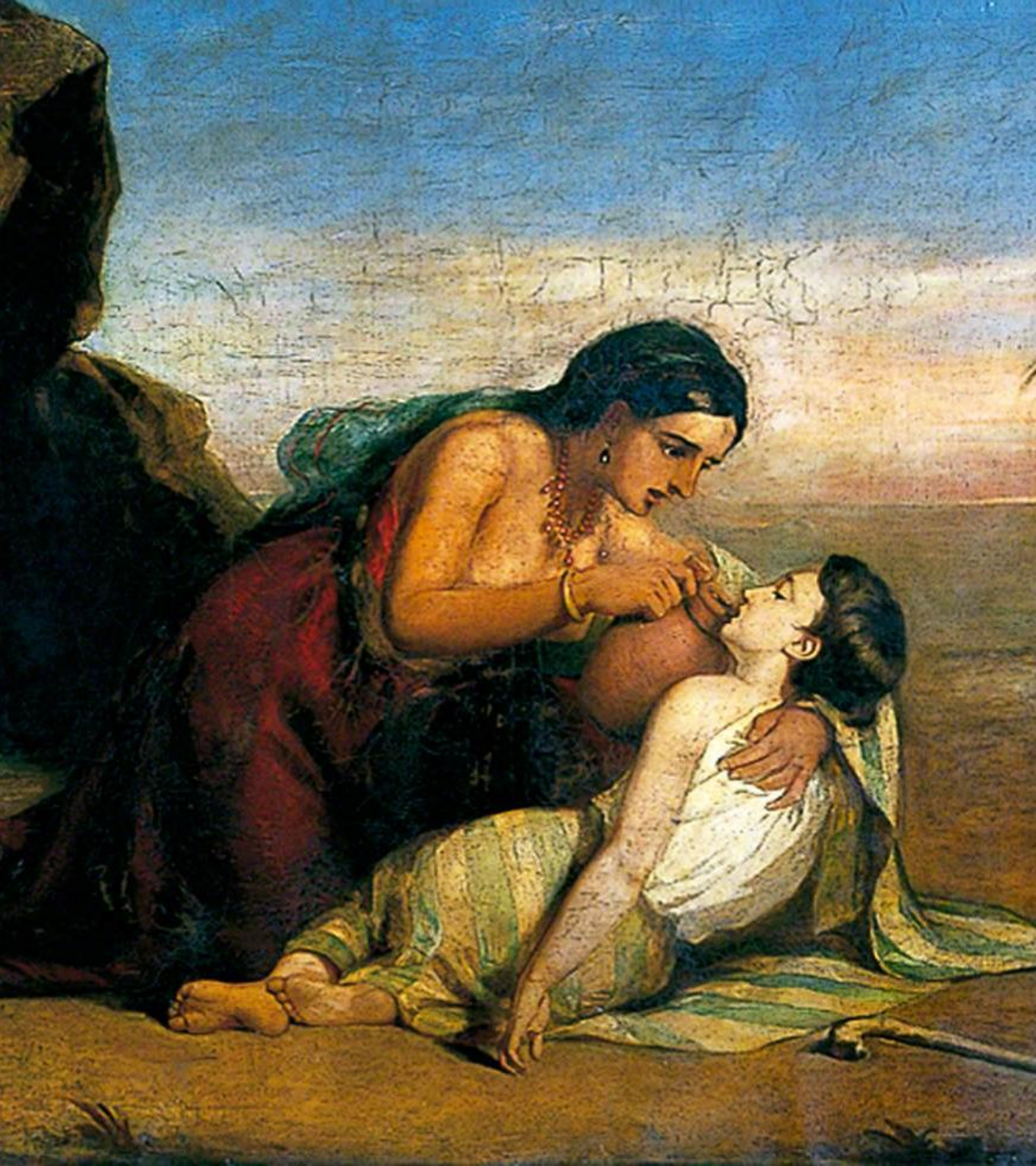


Hagar's Response to God

Hagar names God “El Roi”—the God who sees.

What Should We Remember about Hagar?

- ▶ Only matriarch to receive the patriarchal promise of offspring
- ▶ First person in the OT to be visited by a messenger of God/God
- ▶ Courageous Faith
- ▶ First, and only person, in the Bible to give God a name.



Is Ishmael the
Child of the
Promise?

Circumcision as a Sign of the Covenant

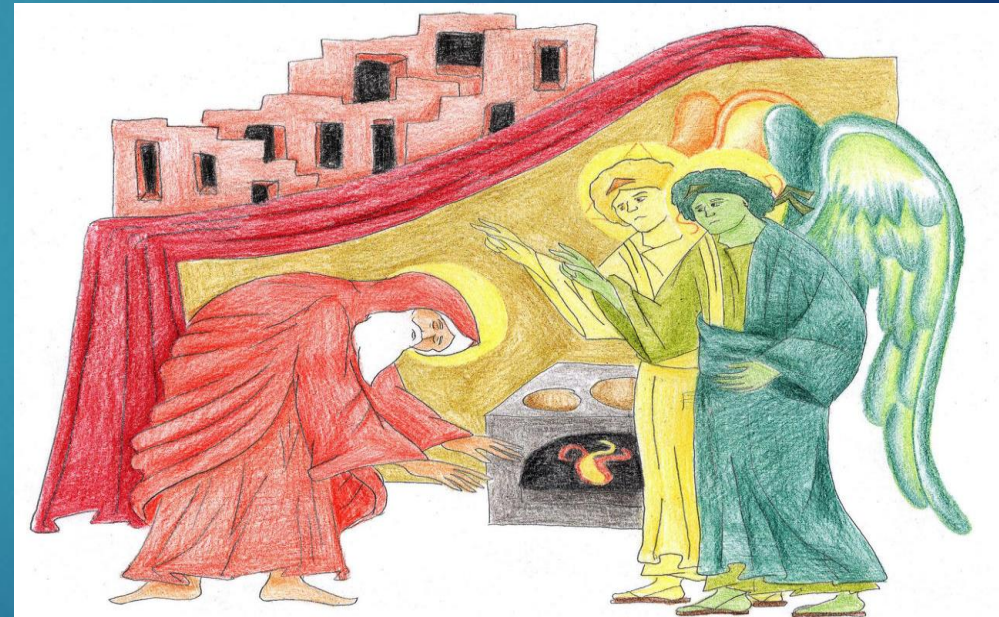
- ▶ 17:9-14; 23-26
- ▶ Circumcision in the Ancient Near East
- ▶ Associating Meaning with Ritual

Two Panels: Hospitality and Divine Action

Gen 18:1-15



Genesis 18:16-19:29



Hospitality and Divine Action— Panel 1: Abraham and Sarah

- ▶ 18:1-2 Typical Divine visitation scene
- ▶ 18:3-8 Traditional expectations of hospitality
- ▶ Attention on Sarah
 - “laughs” (*tza’ach*); child’s name Isaac (*yitza’ach*)



The Trinity

Andrei
Rublev



Hospitality and Divine Action—

Panel 2: Sodom and Gomorrah

- ▶ Events in Chapter 18

 - 18:20-21 Divine declaration

 - 18:22-33 Abraham's negotiation

- ▶ Parallel Stories

 - Messengers from God/angels visit each person (Abraham/Lot)

 - Both Abraham and Lot go out to meet the guests

 - Both Abraham and Lot issue an invitation to come to their home

 - Both Abraham and Lot prepare a feast for the guests.

 - Story line breaks off

Hospitality and Divine Action: Conclusions

- ▶ For those who struggle with unbelief and disbelief, such feelings are not the final word. There remains space for God to do the impossible, for God to help us in our unbelief.
- ▶ For those who long for violence, even relishing the thought of violence against another human, such feelings result in the final word and that word is judgement.

The Binding of Isaac or the Near Sacrifice of Isaac

- ▶ Background—Canaanite God “Molek”
- ▶ V. 2– The promise at risk
Hebr “take your son, your only son, the one that you love, Isaac”
- ▶ “Moriah”-- from the word “to see”
- ▶ V. 8 “God will provide” // “God will see to it”

Genesis 22 and the Cross



Marc Chagall

Final Thoughts

- ▶ The story of Abraham and Sarah is a story of a couple who lacks faith, but follows God.

Where are the places in your life you lack faith? How can you continue to follow God in those places? How can you pray, “I believe, help my unbelief.”

- ▶ The story of Hagar is a reminder that “God is the one who sees”—even when you are an Egyptian slave, who has been traded to another, and used by your owner.

Do you feel unseen by God? The story of Hagar reminds us otherwise.

- ▶ The future of Abraham rests with the “God who sees to it.”

Where do you need to leave your future with the God who sees to it?