1. **Introduction: context**
   1. **Promises to Abram and Sarai** (Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-6) **but no offspring**.
   2. **Sarai’s Egyptian handmaid**. (Genesis 16:1)
   3. **Sarai proposes to Abram that she obtain children through Hagar.** (Genesis 16:2-4)
   4. **Hagar “despised” Sarai and Sarai blames Abram who “punts” and tells Sarai to “*do what is good in your sight*”.** (Genesis 16:5-6)
   5. **Sarai treats her “*harshly*” and Hagar “*fled from her presence*.”** (Genesis 16:6)
   6. **Hagar travels through the wilderness at Shur seeking sustenance on her way back to Egypt.**
   7. **The sustenance she finds is not only physical but spiritual.**
   8. **Hagar is promised descendants “too many to count” through a son that exercise his will - who will “matter”.**
   9. She then named **God “Elroi” meaning “*You, God see me*.”** (John 4:15-19)
2. **Hagar, where have you come from?**
   1. **Not always an easy question to answer.**
   2. **In the immediate context, she is running away from her problems & difficulties… Who hasn’t at some point?**
   3. **Our past includes both consequences of our own choices and that which may be out of our control. (Daniel?)**
3. **Where have you come from? Examples…**
   1. **Moses?** (Exodus 3:1-9)
   2. **Daniel?** (Daniel 1:1-8)
   3. **Jonah?** (Jonah 1:1-3, 8-10)
   4. **Paul?** (Philippians 3:4-6)
   5. **Jesus?** (Philippians 2:5-8)
4. **Hagar, where are you going?**
   1. **She had a “life-defining” choice to make…**
      1. **Will you return back to your former manner of life?**
      2. **Will you return in submission to God?**
      3. **Not enough to flee**, we **must pursue**. (1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22)
5. **Where are you going? Examples…**
   1. **Moses?** (Exodus 3:1-9)
   2. **Israelites?** (Numbers 14:1-4)
   3. **Daniel?** (Daniel 1:1-8)
   4. **Jonah?** (Jonah 1:1-3, 8-10)
   5. **Paul?** (Acts 9; Philippians 3:4-6)
   6. **Demas?** (2 Timothy 4:10)
   7. **Jesus?** (Philippians 2:5-8)
6. **Lessons Learned From Hagar**
   1. **God desires/requires submission.** For God to bless her, she would need to choose to return to Sarai and *“****submit yourself to her authority****”.* 
      1. **To His will** (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:6; Matthew 16:24-25)
      2. **To one another** (Ephesians 5:21ff; 1 Peter 2:13-20; note vs. 21ff; Philemon 10-16)
      3. For God’s sake, **for conscience sake**. (1 Peter 2:19)
      4. **She, who** perhaps **couldn’t choose** before, **now must**!
      5. **Only God can bless our broken roads** going forward. (Matthew 11:28-30;   
         Luke 7:44-50)
   2. **God knows & cares.**
      1. **He sees us** (Genesis 16:13; Luke 7:44-50; John 4:35; Psalms 33:13ff)
      2. **He hears us** (Genesis 16:11, *“the* ***Lord has given heed to (heard) your affliction****”.* “Ishmael” means “God hears”; John 9:31)
7. **Where Have We All Come From?**
   1. We are all created by God in His image with the ability to choose. (Acts 17:25-28; Isaiah 45:9; Genesis 1:27; Ephesians 4:22-24)
   2. **We have all come from a past in which we chose to commit sin** which has separated us from Him. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)
   3. All of us have been presented with a choice. (Titus 3:3-5)
8. **Where Are We All Going?**
   1. **Our daily choices determine:**
      1. **Whether to a place of glory, honor, immortality and eternal life, or**
      2. **A place of wrath, indignation and tribulation** (Romans 2:4-10).
   2. **Two choices**: Matthew 7:13-14; cf., Luke 16:19ff