

Parallels between Hagar and Moses

(from Dozeman, "The Wilderness and Salvation History in the Hagar Story," JBL [1998] 117.1, pp. 23-43)

1. Hagar is an Egyptian slave in a "biblical" household.

Moses is a "biblical" (Israelite) prince in an Egyptian household
(note "Sarai" means "princess")

2. Hagar's transformation into "woman/wife" prompts "oppression" (*`nh*) from Sarai

Moses' transformation from Egyptian prince to Israelite liberator prompts "oppression" (*`nh*) from pharaoh

3. Each encounter a messenger/angel from YHWH in the wilderness

4. Each responds to oppression by fleeing (*brch*) to a well in the wilderness

5. Each is commanded to return to the oppressive situation

6. Each receives a word of promise and leaves the wilderness with a new name for God

7. Each returns from the wilderness with a new role, which sets up further oppression

8. In each situation, God sanctions/supports the person being expelled from the oppressive situation

9. Each experiences the threat of thirst in the wilderness