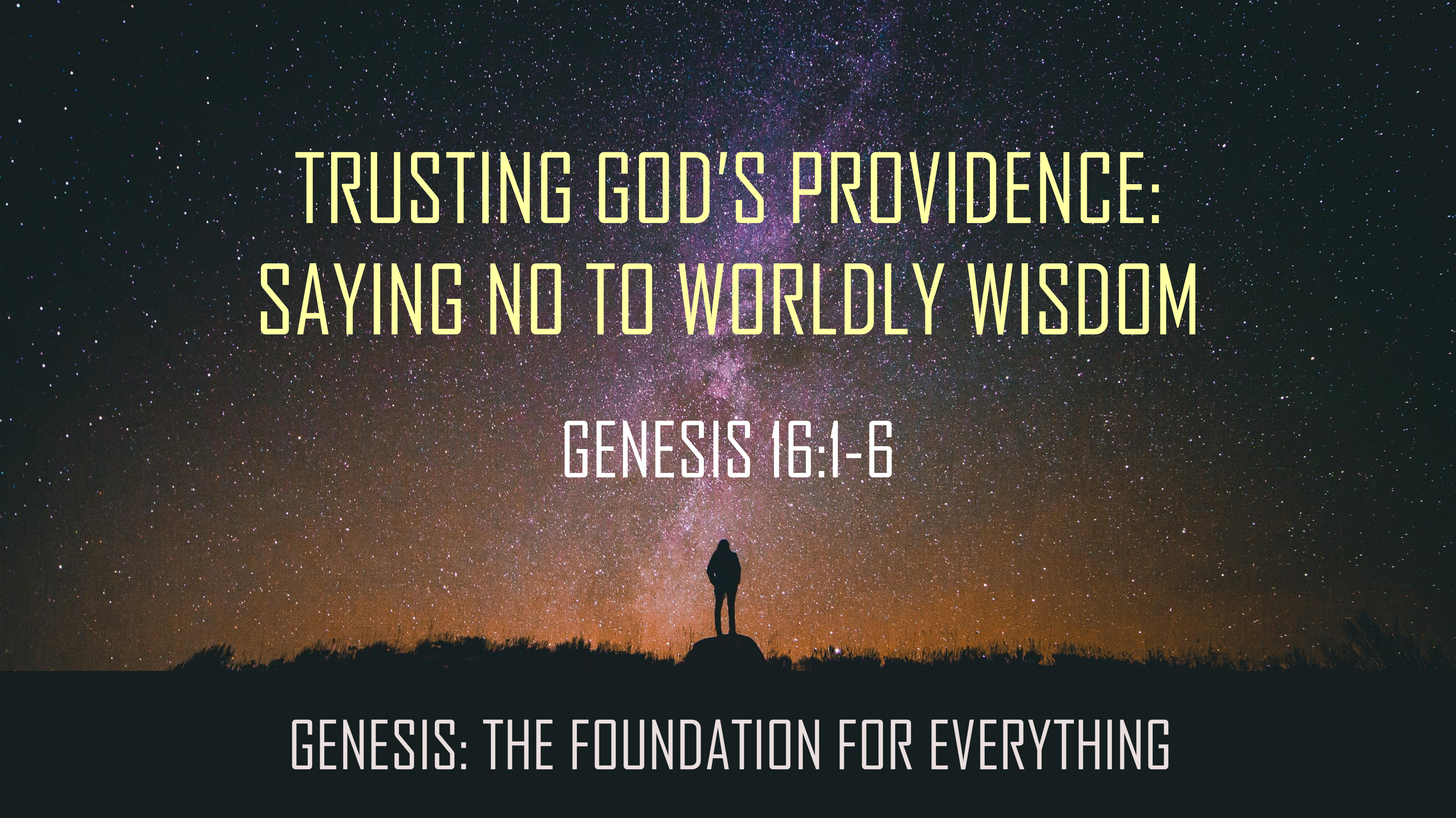




GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

A person stands on a dark, silhouetted hill, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The galaxy's bright, colorful band stretches across the center of the frame, creating a sense of awe and wonder. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

TRUSTING GOD'S PROVIDENCE: SAYING NO TO WORLDLY WISDOM

GENESIS 16:1-6

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”(Romans 8:28)

“And we know

that God causes all things to work together for good...”

***“And we need to try to remember and try to rehearse to ourselves
that God causes all things to work together for good...”***

This is an attack on the sufficiency of God’s Word.

Sarai's idea reflects a heart embracing the wisdom of the world, not the wisdom of God.

Wisdom of the world: how ungodly, unbelieving society thinks about and resolves the everyday issues of life.

Instead of following Jesus in faith, worldly wisdom tempts us to doubt and dump the truth to do what is right in our own eyes.

Why? Because worldly wisdom discourages our hearts in knowing that God causes all things to work together for good.

Worldly wisdom sounds and seems comfortable and practical but, at its core, it never makes your life about Jesus.

At *best*, it makes your life about Jesus-*plus* (not self-denial).

At *worst*, it takes the wisdom, truth, and treasure that Jesus is and replaces Him with the deceptive counterfeits of self and Satan.

Three ways Satan uses worldly wisdom to draw your heart away from standing firm in your faith in God's truth, goodness, and provision for you as His follower:

Wisdom of the World

The world's wisdom deceives... our hearts.

Satan's snare: adopting the world's wisdom requires compromising God's truth. Worldly wisdom and godly wisdom are incompatible.

Anytime we are tempted to run a course which requires us to compromise any aspect of God's wisdom and truth for living, we are headed in the wrong direction. We are not making it about Jesus.

As soon as we begin to turn our eyes to the world's wisdom in the things of life, we open ourselves to deceit and start a progression which takes us away from single-minded devotion to God and toward empty deception and compromise. But in the moment, it "works," and then it becomes comfortable.

Wisdom of the World

This is abdication (abandoning) of Abram's God-ordained role as spiritual head of his wife.

As with Adam's abdication, Abram's sin and LACK of godly leadership had a tremendous negative impact on his marriage.

Wisdom of the World

L Listened without question

‘Sounds good to me’

Abram exercised no discernment in what he heard from his wife.

Wisdom of the World

L Listened without question

A **Abdicated without qualm**

Qualm = “uneasy feeling or pain of conscience as to conduct; a sudden feeling of apprehensive uneasiness; misgiving”

Abram failed in his responsibility to lead with godly wisdom and reassurance.

Wisdom of the World

L Listened without question

A Abdicated without qualm

C **Conceded without qualification**
“No, but here is what we will do instead.”

Wisdom of the World

L Listened without question

A Abdicated without qualm

C Conceded without qualification

K **Knowingly remained aloof without quelling**

Quell = to suppress, put an end to, extinguish; to quiet, calm, or alleviate.

Abram did what was expedient. “Leave me out of this” attitude; he made no attempt to right his wrong.

Wisdom of the World

The world's wisdom defiles... our relationships.

A determined desperation can make us vulnerable to deception! And deception often ends in defilement.

“Also, it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who hurries his footsteps sins.” (Prov. 19:2)

“The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death.” (Prov. 14:27)

Wisdom of the World

The world's wisdom demands... our allegiance.

W

Watch for God's goodness.

A

Adorn God's truth.

I

Invest in God's people.

T

Thank God for His blessings.

A person stands on a dark rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The text "GRACE CHURCH" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and "WILLIAMSBURG" is written in smaller, white, serif capital letters below it.

GRACE CHURCH

WILLIAMSBURG