

ROTE & SALONA UMC

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

GOD BUILDS A NATION

PART 3

CHAPTER 2

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Review ~ Part 1 ~ Creation -

- ✘ Gods vision in/thru creation was to be with us*
- ✘ Adam and Eve chose a different vision*
- ✘ Sin and sinful nature entered the human race*
- ✘ Yet, God passionately pursues us at all cost*

- ✘ Today in the Story, we discover that God decides to build a nation and through that new nation win us back to Himself*



**Sin entered the world thru the
serpent**

Adam and Eve chose to yield

To the temptation to sin

Sin separates

Us from God



Genesis 17.

7 I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. 8 The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”



God

Will not

Abandon

The Upper Story



1. The central humans in this segment are Abram and Sarai. Their names were changed by God. What are the meanings of the names:

✓ *Abram* —

✓ *exalted father*

✓ *Sarai* —

✓ *Princess*

✓ *Abraham* —

✓ *father of a multitude*

✓ *Sarah* —

✓ *princess*



2. What was God's promise to Abraham?

✓ *Genesis 12. 2-3*

✓ ² **“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.**

³ **I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”**

✓ *Genesis 15. 4-5*

✓ ⁴ **Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”** ⁵ **He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”**

✓ *Genesis 17. 1-2*

✓ **When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”**



2. What was God's promise to Abraham?

✓ *Genesis 17. 19*

- ✓ **Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. ²⁰ And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. ²¹ But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year.”**

✓ *Genesis 22. 17-19*

- ✓ **¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”**



3. What is said about Abraham in Joshua 24. 2-3?

- ✓ **“2 Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.³ But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac,⁴ and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his family went down to Egypt.”**



4. What does the following quote mean to you:

a. “God’s will is lived forward and understood backward.”

b. We live for the future, but we learn from the past

c. Shakespeare → “The past is prologue”

d. How is this evident in Abraham’s life?

e. Did he really trust God?

f. Did he learn from his past?



5. What were the consequences for Abram and Sarai taking matters in their own hands? [Genesis 16]

✓ *Hagar & Ishmael* →

✓ *Trouble*

✓ *Sarah & Hagar—*

✓ *Jealousy*

✓ *16. 4-5*

✓ **“When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me.”**



6. Contrast Genesis 22.2 and John 3. 16.

■ Genesis 22. 2

- “Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.

■ John 3. 16

- **“ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**



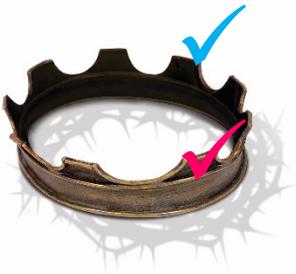
7. How does 2 Chronicles 3. 1 relate to our story today?

a. **“Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.”**



8. What are some of the main story lines in this lesson?

- ✓ *God's promises* →
- ✓ *Abram & Lot*
- ✓ *Abram rescues Lot*
- ✓ *Sarai taking matters into her own hands*
- ✓ *Laughter – disbelief*
- ✓ *Circumcision*
- ✓ *Pleading for Sodom*
- ✓ *Sarah = Abram's sister?*
- ✓ *Isaac*
- ✓ *Testing*



God Chose to begin a New Nation

God chose Abram and Sarai ~ ? ? ? ? ?

- ◆ Old
- ◆ Ages 75 and 65 - Past child rearing
- ◆ Childless - Infertile - Barren
- ◆ Parents and grandparents worshiped pagan gods



Genesis 12.

“¹ The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

“⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him”

Hebrews 11. 8-10

“⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”



Conflict

Zone



The Four-fold Plan God Reveals for the New Nation: **Genesis 12: 1-3**

1. God will make the new nation great

2. God will make Abraham's name great

3. God will bless all who bless Abraham and curse the one who curses Abraham

4. God will bless all the nations of the world through Abraham and the new nation. God will use the new nation to reveal his heart and his plan to win us back



Turbulent Beginnings of the New Nation: Genesis 16, 18, 22

Impatience

Taking matter in to own hands

Lack of trust in God's Promise

Sarai proposes her own way to start the new nation

Genesis 16

She offers Hagar to Abraham and Ishmael is born

**God blesses Ishmael, but does not
begin the new nation with Ishmael**



Turbulent Beginnings of the New Nation:

Genesis 16, 18, 22

Abraham and Sarah, at 100 and 90 respectively,
are promised their own child

Sarai laughs at this preposterous word of the Lord

The supernatural boy who is born to them is
named Isaac which means laughter

Genesis 18



Turbulent Beginnings of the New Nation:

Genesis 16, 18, 22

**God severely tests Abraham by commanding him to offer
Isaac as a sacrifice**

Genesis 22

*Abraham obediently responds
believing that God could raise his
beloved son to life from the dead*

Hebrews 11:7

Isaac is spared and a ram is offered in sacrifice

**Centuries later another beloved Son
will be sacrificed and is not spared**





God will win us
back at great cost to
Himself

God honored His
promise to Abraham &
Sarah



But still we struggle ~

Our Lower Story is filled with

DOUBTS

CONFUSION

TRIALS

TEMPTATIONS



To US -

Gods way is foolish

too hard

too challenging



We laugh like Sarah

God does NOT

need our help!



Abraham and Sarah trusted God

Will you?

