

Chapter 2

God Builds a Nation

Day One – God’s Faithfulness

Today’s reading: Page 13 through middle of page 18

This reading covers: Genesis 12-21

Summary: God shows himself to be a faithful promise maker.

Consider this:

What has God asked you to do recently? What would it cost you to obey? Consider Abraham’s age when he was called out of Ur, when he was promised a son and when he had Isaac. What factor does age play in God’s calling? Do you feel too young or too old? God would like you to put away your personal feelings of inadequacy and simply follow. What was Abraham’s motivating quality?

For further reading: Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, instill in me the same kind of faith that moved Abraham to obey when you called him to another place, the same kind of faith that helped him follow your commands, even at great loss to himself. Help me to truly know your commands by reading your word and meditating on its content. Let me not be deceived by false teachings and misleading instruction. Grant me discernment so I might know the truth from the lie and then give me the ability to follow truth. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day Two – Fully Committed

Today’s reading: Middle of page 18 through page 20

This reading covers: Genesis 22

Summary: Abraham’s test proves he is fully committed to God.

Consider this:

What impressed God most; Abraham’s sacrifice or his obedience? List several ways you can demonstrate your faith in God through obedience and sacrifice. What was God’s ultimate sacrifice? What was Jesus’ ultimate act of obedience? How does all that affect your walk with God?

For further reading: 1 Samuel 15

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I have been so consumed with the things I want and the way I would like life to be that I have forgotten what my salvation cost you. Forgive me and now turn my life around so that I am able to shed my self-centered behavior and focus on you and your plan for my life. Help me put away my fears and by faith accept your will. As I step forward in obedience, encourage me with blessings beyond what I could ever imagine. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day Three – God's Plans

Today's reading: Break on page 21 through end of chapter

This reading covers: Genesis 23-36

Summary: God's plans will succeed in spite of our shortcomings.

Consider this:

How long did Isaac and Rebekah wait for God to give them a child? (See Genesis 25:20 and 25:26) What have you been praying for that seems to be taking a long time to be fulfilled? What might you do to hurry things along? Why is this not a good idea? Why is it better to wait on the Lord's timing? What price did Jacob pay for his deceitfulness? What lesson can you learn from what he did to his brother and to Laban?

For further reading: Proverbs 19:21

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, my timing is so different from yours. Please, help me to look at things as you do. Grant me patience without painful trials. Help me to trust you for the fulfillment of my prayers and not to become weary with waiting. Encourage me in some way. As a human, I need little gifts of encouragement so that I will not give up. Increase my faith so that I might truly trust you, not only with the present but also with my future. In Jesus' name, Amen.