

Search for Truth

4. Fourth Dispensation: Promise

God promised Abraham (the father of the faithful) that he would be the father of a great nation. It was going to be a holy nation, a separated people.

Ishmael, Father of the Arab Nation

Genesis 16:1-16 (just tell story)

One of the First promises God made to Abram, was that he would make of his seed a great nation. However, after 10 years in Canaan, there were no children. So Sara brought her maid, Hagar to Abram, as a wife. Hagar gave birth to a son named Ishmael.

Abraham tried to force the will of God in his own time, instead of waiting on God's timing. And because of this the Jewish people have never had rest. It just goes to show you that even today we must learn to wait on the Lord.

The Bible says they that wait upon Lord shall renew their strength.

Isaac, son of promise

Gen 21:1-6 (read)

Abraham was 100 and Sara 90 years old when Isaac (laughter) was born. Ishmael mocked the new baby; later Ishmael became the father of the Arabs. Isaac became the father of the Jewish nation, and there has been a struggle between these two nations, to this very day. It never pays to get out of the will of God.

Abraham's Test

Genesis 22:2, 8, 13 (and tell story)

Abraham was speaking prophetically. He said, "the Lord will provide himself."

John 1:29

29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Isaac, Esau and Jacob

Gen 25:21-23 (and tell story)

A new man! A new name!

Gen 32:24-29

When Jacob went to be alone with God, The angel took a hold of Jacob first. Before it was over Jacob had a hold of the angel, and said, "I will not let you go until you bless me." We need to get an attitude of never giving up, we need to hold on to the things of God with everything inside of us. Like Jacob, that's when God starts calling you by a different name. Old things are passed away behold all things have become new.

2. Israel becomes a Nation

Joseph the Dreamer

Genesis 37:2-11 (just tell story)

Of Jacobs 12 sons, Joseph, the first son of Rachel, was his favorite son. To show his love, Jacob gave Joseph a "coat of many colors." Joseph 10 older brothers, disliked Joseph because he was his

father's favorite, on top of this, Joseph experience dreams of his brother's bowing down to him. After he revealed his dreams to them, they hated him even more.

Once again, Israel was deceived by his sons. He learned a bitter lesson, " whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7)

Sold into Egypt

Gen 37:18-22 (read and tell story)

Joseph resolved to make the best of his situation. If he must be a slave, he would be the best one. This is the kind of attitude to have. Paul said, what ever your hand finds to do, do with all your might.

In Prison

Genesis 39:1-23 (just tell story)

Joseph had been in Egypt for 11 years, and just when it seemed like he was getting somewhere, he was knocked down. But even in prison Joseph rose to the top.

Interprets dreams

Genesis 41:1-46 (just tell story)

Because of Joseph's attitude of never giving up, and always helping those around him, when Pharaoh had a dream no one could interpret, a former prisoner remembered Joseph. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, and because of his insight and his relationship with God, he became second in command of all Egypt

Joseph forgives his brother's

Genesis 45:1-15 (just tell story)

There was so much that happened in Joseph's life that he could have been bitter about. Everyone always seemed to knock him down; even his own family sold him out. But Joseph had a forgiving heart, and said you meant it for bad but God meant it for the good.

We need to learn to forgive, if Joseph would have kept a bad attitude he would have never risen to the top. But he had a spirit of forgiveness.

When should we forgive?

The longer we wait to forgive the harder it is to forgive. It is like when you have grip something like a hammer or something for a long time and it fills like you have to pry your fingers from it.

Jesus gave us the example to forgive quickly.

Luke 23:34

34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

While Jesus was still on the cross he forgave them, he did not even what until he rose later but that very moment he forgave.

Eph 4:26

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

If we will not forgive, God will not forgive

Matt 6:9-15 (read)

The only thing that Jesus goes back to in the Lord's Prayer is forgiveness.

Matt. 18:21-35 (read)

Verse 34-35 says even the things that God has forgiven us of in the past will be put back on us if we don't forgive.

Don't be a monkey

In India there are a lot of monkeys. When the locals want to catch one, they anchor a bottle to the ground. The neck of the bottle is just large enough for a monkey's hand to fit through. Then, they put a small banana in the bottle, sit back and wait.

Before long a monkey comes by, sees the banana, reaches his hand into the bottle, and grabs it. But then, the monkey discovers that he can't get his hand out of the bottle while holding onto the banana. There is loud chattering and squealing as the person who set the trap walks up to the monkey and places a burlap sack over him. In the darkness the monkey releases the banana and is captured.

The monkey could, of course, let go of the banana and run before getting caught. Some do. But most of the monkeys hang on to the banana until the sack goes over their head.

If we want to go to the top when life pushes you down we must be like Joseph and let things go.