

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - May 26, 2024

**THEME: "Abraham and Sarah"
GOD'S COVENANT**

Sunday Read Genesis 12:1-2

"I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:" Our God is a God who makes covenants, covenants that are sure! The Bible is made up of two covenants with all humanity; the Old and New Testaments. In addition, God has made covenants with humans. The one in today's Bible reading God's covenant with Abraham. He promised to make a nation out of his descendants that would be a blessing to all people. How could that be? Well, as time went on, that nation would be called Israel, after Abraham's grandson. It was into that nation that God would send His Son Jesus to be the Savior of the world. Jesus introduced God's new covenant, as we read in Matthew 26:28: *"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."*

A NEW HOME

Monday Read Genesis 12:3-5

"And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came." Abraham was obedient to God's command and left his home where he had grown up and got married. They settled in their new home, and a new nation was established. That was the land of Canaan, along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. That little nation became a focal point throughout the history of the world for God to conduct His work. It would become a target of Satan, God's enemy; but in the end God would prevail.

MAN'S WAYWARDNESS

Tuesday Read Genesis 16:1-3

"And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes." When it appeared that Sarah had aged beyond the years of child-bearing, she and her husband plotted something against God's will. They agreed that Abraham should have relations with Hagar, the maid. Their impatience turned out to be a huge mistake. We all would do well to take God at His Word. His promises are sure, and His timing is perfect! Praise God that His promises are in writing, in the Bible! When the maid Hagar became pregnant and brought a son into the world, there was an intense jealousy. That resulted in Hagar and her son being evicted, to be left on their own. What a tragedy, and human waywardness from following God's commands always end up bad. It is so vital to make that decision to be a follower of Christ and then to do the will of our Father in heaven.

PROBLEM

Wednesday Read Genesis 16:4-6

"And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the

Lord judge between me and thee." Sarah's impatience and questionable recommendation came back to haunt her. Going against God's law is never a good idea. Anytime any of us goes against God's law or violates His timing in our haste, we are asking for trouble. His ways and His timing are best. The fruits of the Spirit to empower us for living the Christian life are mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. One of those is patience. It may be difficult at times, but always worth the wait!

BIRTH OF ISAAC

Thursday Read Genesis 21:1-2

"And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him." God was true to the covenant into which He had entered with Abraham about being a blessing to the whole world. Despite her age, Sarah became pregnant to carry on the family heritage. That obviously resulted in a problem for Abraham who had one child with the maid and another with his wife. That rivalry goes on even today between the descendants of Ishmael, the Arabs, and the descendants of Isaac, the Jews.

TEST OF FAITH

Friday Read Genesis 22:1-3

"And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him." In all of human history, this may well be the greatest test of faith ever. God instructed Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice on the altar. Why would God give such an order? I believe it was to give an understanding of the emotions that God, the Father experienced when He offered His Son Jesus, on the cross of calvary. God, however, went through it by allowing Jesus to be crucified. In the case of Abraham, God spared Isaac by providing a lamb to be offered in his place. Jesus however, is the sacrificial Lamb of God; His blood paid for the sins of all humans.

ISAAC'S SONS

Saturday Read Genesis 25:21-23

"And the Lord said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger." This statement of God is actually a prophetic truth. Those two sons would be the progenitors of two nations: one for the Jewish people and the other for the Arabs. Just as the twins in the womb competed before birth, so the nations resulting from these two sons engaged in conflict over the centuries of history. Even today, they dominate the news, most noticeably the conflict between the Hamas and Israel.