



PRAYER & WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

- **Question:** Are you the type of person who likes to wait or have no problem waiting for too long?
- Is waiting even something any person would want to do?
- Desires we long for, prayers we've been praying, and news we're waiting to hear can tempt us to be impatient, discouraged, to worry, and even to wonder if God cares.
- The Bible is filled with characters who waited on the Lord and endured in spite of their problems.
- Tonight, we will meet three (3) great men of God who have patiently waited on the Lord.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Isaiah 40:31 (ASK SOMEONE TO READ LOUD AND CLEAR)

"but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

CHARACTER STUDY

A. ABRAHAM

- Years after the worldwide flood, people began to multiply again and soon plan to rebel against God as one. So, God confused man's language and so were separated. Then nations started to arise in different parts of the world.
- Abraham was promised by God that he will be a father of many nations – He was seventy-five years old when God spoken to him (**Gen.12:1-4**). A great nation (Israel) would come forth through him, through his son (Isaac) with Sarah his wife.
- But Sarah was old and barren (**Gen. 11:30**).

Genesis 17:15-17 And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

1. What were God's promises to Abraham?

ANS.:

- Abraham will have a son with Sarah his wife

- Later will multiply and be a great nation.
- Nations will be blessed through this nation.

2. What were the issues or circumstances concerning the fulfillment of the promise?

ANS.:

- Sarah was barren
- Both of them are old, so before becoming a nation, they should first have a son.

3. Did Abraham received what the Lord has promised? How long?

ANS.:

- Yes
- **25 years** after the Lord called him.

Genesis 21:1-2 And the Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

B. JOSEPH

- Joseph is one of the twelve sons of Jacob.
- Jacob is one of Abraham's grandchildren.
- Joseph is also known as "Joseph the dreamer"
- He is Jacob's favorite son and was envied by his brothers. The hated him more when he shared the



dreams (visions) to his family wherein the brothers, even the parents will bow down before him (Gen. 37:1-10).

Gen. 37:10-11 *So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?" And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.*

Gen. 37:27-28 *Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites,... so, the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.*

1. Why did Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites?

ANS.:

- Because of envy

Gen. 39:3-5 *And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field.*

2. Did Joseph remain as a slave in Egypt? What happened to him?

ANS.:

- No, he was promoted as an overseer in an Egyptian household (a person of authority)

3. How did Joseph prosper? What's the effect?

ANS.:

- God was with Joseph
- God made (caused) him to prosper
- He found favor in his master's sight (a blessing)
- Because of Joseph, the Egyptian household was also blessed.

JOSEPH WAS PUT TO PRISON

But because of false accusation, Joseph was sent to prison later, but by God's intervention and using his ability to interpret dreams (which helped Egypt to save enough food for the coming famine), he was released and became a ruler in Egypt, next to pharaoh.

- There was a great famine in Canaan and surrounding nations so Joseph's father (Jacob), mother, and brothers (with their family) came to Egypt. By God's favor, the whole family prospered in the land of Goshen (a place in Egypt given to the "Israelites" – Jacob is also called Israel).

Gen. 46:2-4 *Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am." So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."*

- God has great plans for Joseph, from being a slave to becoming a ruler in Egypt.
- The dream/vision was fulfilled approximately 14+ years from the time Joseph was sold as a slave.

Joseph's story is just one of the Lord's Divine plan to fulfill another of God's promise to Abraham – "through Abraham a great nation would come."

C. MOSES

- Moses was born several centuries since the time of Joseph. The people of Jacob (Hebrews / Israelites) settled in in Goshen (in Egypt) and have not gone back to Israel (Canaan) when they first left their land because of the famine.

Exodus 1:6-16

6 And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. **7** But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly... **8** Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. **9** And he



said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; **10** come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply... Therefore, they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens... But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel... **15** Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives... **16** and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

1. What happened to Jacob's children and their descendants (Hebrews) in Egypt?

ANS.:

- Joseph and all his brothers soon died but still their descendants stayed in Egypt
- God blessed them by multiplying them.
- The King of Egypt afflicted the Hebrews for fear of them taking over Egypt because of growing population... but, the more they grew in numbers.
- The King of Egypt instructed the midwives to kill all male Hebrew babies during birth.

Exodus 2: 5,6,10

5 "Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river...; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it. **6** And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So, she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ... **10** And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So, she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."

Acts 7:23 "Now when he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.

- *Moses was forty years old when he left Egypt because he killed an Egyptian beating a Hebrew.*
- *Moses wanted to help his people but took the matter in his own hand (Exodus 2:11-15).*

Acts 7:30 And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.

2. How old was Moses when God asked him to lead his brethren out of Egypt? How many years he has to wait?

ANS.:

- *Moses was 80 years old (40 yrs. old + 40 years)*
- *Waited for 40 years!!!*

by the grace and the power of the Lord, Moses led the people of God out of Egypt. (Exo. 14)

Exodus 3:4,6-7

4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ... **6** And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." ... **7** Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, **8** and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land..."

Moses's story is the beginning of the fulfillment of God's Divine plan to fulfill His promise to Abraham – "through Abraham a great nation would come."

REFLECTION

1. In what way does the three stories are same?

ANS.:

- All involve waiting for God

2. How are they connected?

ANS.:

- All events involve God's Divine purpose and plan to make a great nation starting from one (1) man, Abraham.
- For God's promise to Abraham be fulfilled the following must take place and waited for a long time:



- A. ABRAHAM** – waited **25 years** to have the promised son Isaac
- B. JOSEPH** – waited about **14+ years** for him to have the authority to lead his brothers and their families, to keep them in Egypt for them to survive the famine in the region.
- C. MOSES** – waited **40 years** for God to use him to lead his people out of slavery and to go back to the promised land as a "nation".
- 3. What promise is the longest to fulfill?**
- Who do you think has waited the longest time?**
- Have they received the fulfillment of God's promise at their time?**
- ANS.: ABRAHAM!**
- Hebrews 11:8-13**
- 8** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. **9** By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; **10** for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ... **12** Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. The Heavenly Hope **13** These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but **having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them** and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- **ABRAHAM** did not see that great nation in his own time
 - **All of them** saw God's promise, though looking far, but as if it is already fulfilled and "embraced" the promise even though they don't get to see it!
- 4. What are we waiting from the Lord? Is it according to God's Divine purpose? Why do you think it is not answered yet?**
- 5. Which of the characters can we relate with our current situation?**
- 6. As a Christian, which promises of God should we really forward to?**
- ANS.:**
Eternal life - Rev. 3:5 (Jesus speaking) "The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."
- 7. How about us, are we making the Lord wait for us to:**
- **TRUST HIM?**
 - **OBEY HIM?**
 - **LOVE HIM?**
- CONCLUSION**
- God's purpose, plan, and promises never fail – so let our desires, plans, and hopes be according to God's will and purpose.
 - We have the Bible as a guide to know God's purpose
 - Joseph waited 14+ years, Abraham waited 25 years, Moses waited 40 years and in some promises of God they have not even seen but "embraced" them – how about us?
- Psalms 27:14** – "Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!"