

"A Nation Built to Bless"

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (September 15, 2013)

Introduction: The stage is set. The curtains are open. The opening cast has played their part. The plot is revealed.... but the story has just begun. How does it all play out? In this part of the Story, we are going to discover that God decides to build a nation in an effort to win us ALL back to God. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. The People in the New Nation

- A. The people were very ordinary.
Genesis 11:1-9, Genesis 9:1, Genesis 11:10-12:3
- B. The people were very old.
Genesis 12:4, Genesis 18:11, Hebrews 11:8-12
- C. The people were very odd.
Joshua 24:2, Genesis 31:32-35, Genesis 35:2-4
- D. The people were very obedient.
Genesis 12:1-4, Hebrews 11:8

II. The Plan for the New Nation

- A. God's plan is to make the new nation great (**Genesis 12:2**).
- B. God's plan is to make Abram/Abraham's new name great (**Genesis 12:2**).
- C. God's plan is to bless all those who bless Abram/Abraham's (**Genesis 12:3**).
- D. God's plan is to curse all those who curse Abram/Abraham's (**Genesis 12:3**).

III. The Problems of the New Nation

- A. The proposal of Sarai/Sarah concerning Hagar (**Genesis 16-17**).
- B. The promise of God for a child (**Genesis 18-21**).
- C. The predicament of Lot in Sodom (**Genesis 18-19**).
- D. The passion of Abram/Abraham at Moriah (**Genesis 22**).

Conclusion: In choosing Abraham and Sarah to begin the new nation, God reveals a pattern. God chooses unlikely people who are not the smartest, the most beautiful/handsome, youngest, or even have the best resumes. God chooses ordinary people like you and me. You are not disqualified to be used greatly in God's great Story. Your life can and will reveal God to the world. If you look deep enough, you will see His plan to win us all back to Him. Are you ready to surrender to His will?