



### C. The Reason God Chose Abraham and Sarai

God chose an old and unlikely couple so that all people would look to God, knowing that all that happens is done by God. God wants people to see him and understand his plan.

## II. The Four-fold Plan God Reveals for the New Nation: Genesis 12: 1-3

- A. God will make the new nation great.
- B. God will make Abraham's name great.
- C. God will bless all who bless Abraham and curse the one who curses Abraham.
- D. God will bless all the nations of the world through Abraham and the new nation. God will use the new nation to reveal his heart and his plan to win us back.

## III. The Turbulent Beginnings of the New Nation: Genesis 16, 18, 22

### A. Sarai proposes her own way to start the new nation. Genesis 16

Because Sarai is old, she offers Hagar to Abraham and Ishmael is born.

God blesses Ishmael, but does not begin the new nation with Ishmael.

Three Visitors: a Christophany

- B. Abraham and Sarah, at 100 and 90 respectively, are promised their own child. Sarai laughs at this preposterous word of the LORD and the supernatural boy who is born to them is named Isaac which means "laughter." Genesis 18

Finally have a Baby – Isaac

C. God severely tests Abraham by commanding him to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. In Genesis 22, Abraham obediently responds believing that God could raise his beloved son to life from the dead (Hebrews 11:7). Isaac is spared and a ram is offered in sacrifice. Centuries later another beloved Son will be sacrificed and is not spared (John 3:16). God will win us back at great cost to himself.

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# THE STORY

## FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

## God Builds A Nation

### The Story—part 2

September 18, 2016

**Introduction:** In many TV action series, the show will begin with a review. Let's do that with The Story revealed in the Bible. Last time we discovered that God's vision in creation is to be with us. Adam and Eve chose a different vision and sin and the sinful nature entered the human race. Yet, God passionately pursues us at great cost. In this part of the Story, we discover that God decides to build a nation and through that new nation win us back to God.

**Main Idea:** God builds a new nation to reveal God and God's plan to get us back.

### I. The People God Chooses to Build a New Nation

#### A. The Place where the people are: Ur

On your Bible map find the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. In this area the Tower of Babel was being built by many nations who all had one language. God confounded their language and the nations scattered. God chose to create a new nation in this area of the world.

#### B. The People God Chose to begin the New Nation

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. Genesis 12:1-4

1. God chose Abraham and Sarai who were very old and whose parents and grandparents worshiped pagan gods.
2. Abraham obeyed the command of God by faith: Genesis 12:1-4a; Hebrews 11:8