

Our Ways Are Not God's Ways
God's Thoughts Are Not Our Thoughts
(Isaiah 55: 8- 11)

Abraham was seventy-five years old when God called him to leave his country, relatives and his father's house to a land He was going to show him. He promised to make a great nation from him and bless him with riches. Seventy-five in those days was still a young age, relatively speaking, for his father had died at the age of 205. He had no children at that time, for his wife was barren. When the Lord appeared to Abraham in a vision a second time, he said to the Lord God, What can You give me, since I am going on childless and he who shall be the owner and heir of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? Look, You have given me no child; and born in my house is my heir. Abraham in his human nature is puzzled, not understanding God's time line for the fulfillment of His promise. Sixteen years later, God came to Abraham again and this time he made a covenant between Him and Abraham. This covenant was that Abraham shall be the father of many nations; he probably wondered when, since sixteen years had passed since God had called him out of his land to a new land He was going to give him but his wife still was barren.

When God came to Abraham the last time before his wife conceived, he was at the age one hundred and his wife at ninety years old. God's promise of a son became a matter of laughter to both of them. But God assured them that time that He was going surely to return to them when the season had come round, and behold, Sarah his wife was going to have a son. The reality to them was that they were now old, well advanced in years; it had ceased to be with Sarah as with women. Therefore Sarah laughed to herself, saying, After I have become aged shall I have pleasure and delight, my lord being old? The Lord saw and heard Sarah and said, Is anything too hard or too wonderful for the Lord? At the appointed time, when the season comes around, I will return to you and Sarah shall have borne a son (Gen.17,18:10-14). God's thoughts are not our thoughts; our ways are not His ways!

The Lord visited Sarah as He had said, and the **Lord did for her as He had promised** (Gen. 21:1). Abraham was one hundred and Sarah ninety years old; but what is it to the Lord, since He is the Creator of life, and He is not in a frame of human time? He opened the womb of Sarah and what seemed impossible to them and their family, and a matter of laughter, became an expression of God's power and faithfulness, for there is nothing hard for Him. His thoughts are not our thoughts; our ways are not His ways. He could have called someone younger according to our thoughts and reasoning; or He could have given Abraham a son earlier, but how would they have known the depth of God's power and wisdom in the fulfilling of His promise to them? In our weakness God's strength is manifested. Abraham had to go through a few experiences in life before he would see the reality of the promises. First he had to believe in the only true God, since he had come from a family of idol worshippers; second, he had to have faith to take the first step in obedience to God. Faith and obedience were then credited to him, for doing the impossible as far as to obey God in sacrificing his only son as God had asked of him to do. He had waited for that son twenty-five years. Now the Lord wanted to take him back. The depth of his faith went beyond the visible reality; in his faith he obeyed, believing God was

going to give him his son back after he had killed him, as we read in Hebrews 11:17-18: By faith Abraham, when he was put to the test, had already brought Isaac for an offering; he who had gladly received all [God's] promises was ready to sacrifice his only son, of whom it was said, through Isaac shall your descendant be reckoned, for he reasoned that God was able to raise [him] up even from among the dead. Indeed in the sense that Isaac was figuratively dead, he did receive him back from the dead. "God's thoughts are not our thoughts; our ways are not God's ways"!

By faith Abraham accepted that, even not understanding God's thoughts and ways. It would have been nice, in my opinion, that is, if he had remembered God's promises of earlier days when God had first called him. He would have not listened to his wife's ideas of giving her a child through her maid. That was pure man's ways, and man's thoughts and not God's. The results are the enemies of Israel!

After the death of his mother, Isaac was given a wife from his family line at the age of forty years old. Only twenty years later did his wife conceive and gave him two sons, after Isaac had prayed much to the Lord for his wife and the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant (Gen. 25:20-21). Isaac was sixty years old when he became a father. Why Isaac had to pray to obtain that which had been promised? Had God forgotten His covenant with Abraham? Of course not; the truth remains that God's thoughts are not our thoughts and our ways are not God's ways. In His time, God was going to accomplish that which He had promised Abraham and nations would come from him.

God's way to show Pharaoh Who He was, was through the hardening of Pharaoh's heart. He turned Pharaoh's gods into plagues to torment the Egyptian people and used them to destroy the substance of life- food. He delivered Israel out of slavery with signs and wonders and gave them a route to the Promised Land that took them forty years, and not days. Many died in the desert without reaching Canaan, including Moses their leader. He had lived in the palace forty years, in the desert forty more years, when God called him to free his people and lead them to the Promised Land he was eighty years old. The Lord gave him forty more years in the desert, but did not give him the Promised Land. "God's thoughts are not our thoughts; our ways are not His ways".

David was anointed king of Israel several years before he was given the throne. In that interim, he became a fugitive, for King Saul sought to kill him out of jealousy. For several years his life was constantly on the line until the death of King Saul. In His sovereignty, God chose the lineage of David from whom He brought His Son YAHSHUA, although David's great-grand-mother was a harlot from Jericho; while king he had one of his soldiers killed in battle to marry his wife Bathsheba to satisfy the extent of his adultery. His first son with her died, but the second lived to be the king of Israel, above all the other sons. God chose Solomon, who became one of the most spiritually and morally corrupted king of Israel. Nothing takes God by surprise; although that does not keep us from asking questions in our limited way of thinking. The best way is to recognize that we are all sinners; He is completely and awesomely holy. There is no size of sin with Him; sin is sin. "His thoughts are not our thoughts; our ways are not

His ways". God's choice of bringing His Son from a variety of nations and sinful people shows that He was coming to bring salvation to the whole world.

When you find yourself in the deepest valley or in the driest desert of life, wondering why God has not answered your prayers, remember that there is no mistake with Him; "His thoughts are higher than your thoughts; your ways are not His ways". He will provide a way out of your troubles, as He promised, but it will have to be in His time, and in His way. Think of Abraham, Isaac, David and the other heroes of the faith, who died without seeing what they were foretold. The wisdom and sovereignty of God are not to be measured by our limited understanding of Whom He is, neither by the reasoning of our feeble mind. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unfathomable are His judgments! And how untraceable are His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord and who has understood His thoughts, or who has been His counselor? Or who has first given God anything that he might be paid back or that he could claim recompense? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever! Amen (Rom. 11:33-36).

THINK ABOUT IT!