

## **Chapter 2 – God Builds A Nation**

### **When the Last in Line Gets Chosen for the Team**

The casting agent enters the room with her top picks for the show's leading man and lady. The new series will follow the spellbinding story of a clan that builds a powerful, world-impacting family tree. This is the plot, and it is crucial to make the right call on the individuals who will fall in love and launch this Kennedy-like family of influence and fame.

Producers and writers alike have waited breathlessly for this moment - the moment when who they have envisioned as the leading characters will be finally realized in an actor and actress. But when they turn to see who has been tapped for these most special of roles, the thud of their collective jaws hitting the majestic mahogany conference table muffles their mutual groans.

There, before their wide eyes, instead of the expected vibrant, young couple with gleaming white teeth and tanned and toned bodies, stands a 75-year-old man and a 65-year-old woman. Not what they had pictured for their production.

And yet, this is what God has chosen. His screenplay called for a couple to launch a new nation - one that would impact the entire world. As He would say, "A nation through whom 'all the nations of the earth would be blessed'" (Genesis 12:1-3).

Abram and Sarai stand there, perhaps adorned by dusty old robes and crowned with wispy white hair and loosely-fitting skin and as befuddled as anyone else. God chose them to begin a nation. An unlikely pair, especially after factoring in the fact that Sarai was barren. How could God expect to start a nation with a woman who could not bear children?

To complicate the story line, it will be 25 more years before they actually have their child of promise. By that time Abram and Sarai will be 100 years old and 90 years old, respectively (and their names will be changed to Abraham and Sarah). Perhaps Social Security checks will help this special couple decorate the baby's tent and they'll be able take naps when the baby does. And the rest, as they say, is history. His story.

God picks people that we nor you would necessarily select to take part in His story. In fact, sometimes we are shocked by who plays the starring roles in His stories. Unlike the way we do business, He taps people, not merely because of their abilities, but for their availability. God searches for people who are open to be used by Him. Since He uses only those who are willing to be used for His purposes, there is no doubt that it is He who is doing the wonder-working. Let there be no doubt, throughout history He is the one making things happen.

That's good news, isn't it? In the business world, you may not have a great pedigree. In academics, you may not be a Rhodes Scholar. You may not have a lot of money, and you may have average looks. But you may be sitting in a pretty good position to be a top pick for God's work. You see, God is at work at Woodlands Lutheran Church and He has selected YOU to be a part of it!

Pastor Josh and Pastor Bob