

Do We Hear Who They Heard: Our Story

Think about...

The meaning of Names tells us their power. The House of Ishmael is known to be like a "wild ass." This house is hard to tame. (Genesis 16:12) The House of Isaac is known to "laugh a lot." This house is known to laugh at God's promises. (Genesis 18: 13) The House of Israel is known to "struggle with God." (Genesis 32: 28) This house is known to desire a blessing instead of being God's Blessing.

Think about a house made of sticks and bricks. Jesus' House is built from genealogy. How do these two distinctions inform your understanding of Jesus cleansing the temple? He turns over the tables of the money changers and says, "My Father's House is a house of prayer."

The House of Jesus is not built with human hands. The name Jesus means "God's Salvation." This House of Salvation is Known by Faith born of Hope in Christ through prayer, mercy, grace, and love. How does a house built upon this foundation prepare you to face sin, trials, and temptations?

Notice that the House of Levi is only mentioned as one of the brothers of Judah. (Matthew 1:2) Moses and Aaron are of the House of Levi. The Law comes through Moses. The Son of God comes through the Promise God made to the House of Abraham and The House of David. In which house do you prefer to live?

Up until Saul, God was King. Judges governed the people. The people wanted a King like other nations. (Remember God's Promise to Abraham. I will make of you a Great Nation.")

But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so, he prayed to the Lord. **7** And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. **8** As they have done from the day, I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. **9** Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights." (I Samuel 8: 6-8)

A king is charged with power and authority to provide for the needs of the people. Abraham experienced God as King. Abraham teaches us that faith means we wait for God to fulfill the promise. At times, his desire was greater than his faith. These trials taught him that faith in God requires hearing God's voice and acting according to God's word. If Abraham had not heard God and acted accordingly, Isaac would have died. (Genesis 22)

Jacob desired to be blessed more than being a blessing to all the families of the earth. We all struggle with such selfishness. When Jacob feared his brother, Esau, was going to kill him, he repented. Jacob wrestled with God; not his brother, Father-in-Law, or parents. Jacob paid a price for his blessing. Jacob died to selfishness, and rose to bless Esau, The House of Ishmael, his family, and therefore, all the families of the earth.

What have you learned about God's Promise?

How will you apply what you learned to your daily life?

Pick one person to share what you have learned.

Ask this person to wait, pray with you, and pray for you as you apply what you have learned.