



The Way God Prepares His People

God does not prepare His people in one day. God prepares His people over time. He uses waiting, hardship, prayer, obedience, loss, and testing. Sometimes the preparation feels gentle. Sometimes it feels painful. But through every season, God is working.

In Genesis 21-25, the lives of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Esau show us that God is faithful to His promises. God also shows us that the waiting season is never wasted. While we wait, God forms our faith. While we walk through trials, God teaches us to trust Him. While we obey, God reveals His purpose.

1. GOD PREPARES HIS PEOPLE BY TEACHING THEM TO TRUST HIS PROMISES.

Genesis 21:1–2 says, “*And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him*” (KJV).

Sarah and Abraham had waited many years for the promised son. Their age made the promise seem impossible. Yet God did exactly what He said He would do. Isaac was born “at the set time.” God was not early. God was not late. God was on time.

Isaac’s name means “laughter.” He was also circumcised on the eighth day, which showed the covenant between God and Abraham. Isaac belonged to God. His life was tied to promise, covenant, and divine purpose.

There are times when believers grow weary in waiting. Some are waiting for a loved one to be saved. Some are waiting for healing. Some are waiting for direction, provision, or peace in the home. But Hebrews 10:23 says, “*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.)*”

LIFE REFLECTION

Waiting is not proof that God has forgotten. Waiting is often part of God’s preparation. The promise may take time, but the Lord remains faithful.

2. GOD PREPARES HIS PEOPLE IN THE WILDERNESS.

Genesis 21 then turns to Hagar and Ishmael. Sarah saw Ishmael mocking Isaac, and Abraham faced a painful decision. Ishmael was also Abraham's son. Sending Hagar and Ishmael away was not easy. Yet God assured Abraham that He had a plan for Ishmael too.

Genesis 17:20 says, *"And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly"* (KJV).

Hagar and Ishmael entered the wilderness of Beersheba with only limited supplies. Soon the water was gone. Hagar placed her son under a shrub and wept. It was a moment of deep despair.

Many women know what it feels like to stand in a place where there seems to be no answer. Sometimes the wilderness is not sand and heat. Sometimes the wilderness is fear in the home, grief in the heart, stress in the body, or uncertainty about the future.

But Hagar's story shows that God sees the overlooked.

Genesis 21:17–19 says that God heard the voice of the lad, spoke to Hagar, told her not to fear, and opened her eyes to see a well of water. The well was not created in that moment. It was already there. God opened her eyes to what He had already provided.

This is an important truth. Sometimes God's provision is closer than we think, but sorrow blinds us until God opens our eyes.

This reminds us of the widow of Nain in Luke 7:11–15. She was walking in grief, carrying the body of her only son. But Jesus saw her. Jesus had compassion on her. Jesus touched the bier, spoke life, and gave her son back to her. The same God who saw Hagar in the wilderness saw the widow at the city gate.

God does not forget the broken. God does not overlook the desperate. God does not abandon those who cry unto Him.

If God saw Hagar, God sees us also.

LIFE REFLECTION

*The wilderness can become a place of revelation.
The place of tears can become the place where God says, "Fear not."
The place of weakness can become the place where God opens our eyes.*

3. GOD PREPARES HIS PEOPLE THROUGH TESTING AND SUBSTITUTION.

Genesis 22 records one of the clearest tests in Abraham's life. God told Abraham to offer Isaac, the promised son, as a burnt offering.

"Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest." (Genesis 22:2)

This command was not easy to understand. Abraham had waited so long for Isaac. Ishmael was already gone from the household. Now the very son of promise was being placed on the altar.

Yet Abraham obeyed.

Genesis 22:8 gives us Abraham's faith-filled response: *"My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering."*

And God did provide. When Abraham was about to offer Isaac, the angel of the Lord stopped him, and a ram was provided in Isaac's place

This event teaches two truths.

First, God prepares His people through testing. Abraham's faith was not empty speech. His faith was revealed through obedience. Genesis 22:18 says, *"And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."*

Faith is not proved only in worship services. Faith is also proved in surrender.

Second, this passage points forward to Jesus Christ. Isaac was spared because God provided a substitute. In that sense, the ram points us to the greater sacrifice still to come.

Mark 10:45 says, *"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Jesus Christ became the perfect sacrifice for sin. He took our place. He did not merely spare us from one earthly death. He gave Himself so that we could receive eternal life through His Name.

God's preparation is always leading somewhere greater. In Genesis 22, the altar on Mount Moriah teaches us that God's provision is not only for the present test. God's provision reaches all the way to Calvary.

4. GOD PREPARES HIS PEOPLE THROUGH PRAYER AND GUIDANCE.

Genesis 24 shows another part of God's preparation. Abraham wanted a wife for Isaac, and his servant was sent on a long journey. The servant did not move carelessly. He prayed.

His prayer is recorded in Genesis 24:12. He asked God for guidance and for a clear sign. He asked that the woman appointed for Isaac would offer water not only for him but also for his camels.

Then Genesis 24:15 says, *"And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out."*

What a beautiful reminder. Before the servant finished speaking, God was already answering.

Isaiah 65:24 states, *"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."*



This does not mean every prayer is answered immediately in the same way. But it does mean that God hears. God is attentive. God is already at work before we see the answer.

The servant also responded correctly. When he saw God's hand, he worshipped.

Genesis 24:26–27 says, *“And the man bowed down his head, and worshipped the Lord.”*

That response matters. When God answers, His people should worship. When God leads, His people should give thanks. Prayer should lead to praise.

Rebekah also became part of God's preparation. She was willing to leave what was familiar and go forward in faith. Later, when she saw Isaac, she covered herself with a veil, showing reverence and covenant.

This chapter also gives a beautiful picture of Christ and the Church. Isaac can be seen as a type pointing to the bridegroom, and Rebekah as a type pointing to the bride. Matthew 25:6 says, *“Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.”*

The church is a prepared people. We are not waiting for a stranger. We are waiting for Jesus Christ, the One who saved us and the One we will meet.

God prepares His people to be a ready bride.

5. GOD PREPARES HIS PEOPLE THROUGH LONG WAITING.

Genesis 25 shows that Isaac and Rebekah also had to wait. Rebekah was barren for many years. It took twenty years before Esau and Jacob were born.

When Rebekah felt struggle in her womb, she did the right thing. Genesis 25:22 says, *“And she went to enquire of the Lord.”*

That is a lesson for every believer. In confusion, enquire of the Lord. In pain, enquire of the Lord. In seasons that do not make sense, enquire of the Lord.

God answered Rebekah and gave her understanding about the two nations in her womb. Prayer brought revelation.

Waiting did not mean God was absent. Waiting was part of preparation.

Many believers want quick answers, but God often works deeply in long seasons.



LIFE REFLECTION

Waiting teaches dependence.

Waiting exposes motives.

Waiting drives us to prayer.

Waiting prepares us for what we will one day carry.

6. GOD PREPARES HIS PEOPLE BY TEACHING THEM TO VALUE SPIRITUAL THINGS.

The chapter closes with Esau selling his birthright for a bowl of stew.

Genesis 25:34 says, *“Thus Esau despised his birthright.”*

The birthright mattered. It included identity, inheritance, and responsibility. It was tied to covenant and future blessing. But Esau chose the immediate over the eternal. He chose present appetite over lasting value.

Jacob was not perfect, but he recognized that the birthright mattered.

This part of the story speaks strongly to the Church today. A “bowl of stew” is anything that brings quick relief while costing long-term spiritual value. It may be distraction. It may be compromise. It may be wrong relationships. It may be choosing entertainment over prayer, convenience over holiness, or emotion over obedience.

Hebrews 12:16–17 warns believers not to be *“as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.”*

That warning still matters.

The world offers many temporary satisfactions. But God’s people must value what is spiritual, eternal, and holy. We must not trade prayer for comfort. We must not trade conviction for convenience. We must not trade inheritance for appetite.

God prepares His people by teaching them to treasure what He has given them.

God is preparing His people through promise, wilderness, testings, prayers, waiting, and choices.

Sometimes preparation feels joyful. Sometimes preparation feels painful. But if we submit to the hand of God, preparation will never be wasted.

The Lord who visited Sarah is still faithful. The God who saw Hagar still sees. The God who provided on Moriah still provides. The God who answered the servant’s prayer still hears. The God who spoke to Rebekah still reveals. The God who warned through Esau still calls us to value eternal things.

Let us not resist the process of preparation. Let us trust the God who prepares His people for promise, purpose, and eternity.

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