

The time in between

These past months I thought again about the life of Abraham and Jacob. How many times do we read in the Bible that God talked to them? With each of them individually, not more than ten times. God talked to Abraham about a child, but it was only 10 years later that He spoke to him again. God talked to Jacob at Bethel and we read in the Bible that only 20 years later God spoke to him again. Abraham reached the age of 175 and Jacob lived up to the age of approximately 130 years, and we read in the Bible of only a few times that God talked to them. Think of Abraham in the desert. He sat in his tent for 10 years. In the dust, in the fierce heat, wind, cold nights, with a wife who did not become pregnant. Nothing happened. And yet he didn't stop believing: *Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promises of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised (Rom.4:19-21)*. And it was the same with Jacob. God promised to bless him and that he would have many descendants. Many of the things God promised, Jacob didn't see in his lifetime. In fact there was much suffering and strife.

There are always in-between-times in our lives. The in-between-times are much longer than the times of miracles, great victories and the revelations of God. It is the same with prayer. God makes promises, but the occasions where the answer follows the promise on the same day, or even the following day, are in the minority. It is in the in-between-times that we, like Abraham, need to hold on to the promises. It is during these times that we must read the Bible, be faithful in prayer and believe God more than the circumstances.

Read **Psalm 2** again. It is a conversation between the Father and the Son, most probably even before creation. This promise is already fulfilled in part. It is however not completely fulfilled. There is an in-between-time. What does Jesus do in the in-between-time? He intercedes for us in heaven. He calls on us to pray with Him for the nations. He sends us out to go and work among the nations. The fact that Jesus has already been waiting for thousands, of years for the fulfilment of this promise does not mean that God will not give Him what He promised Him. It will come. But in God the Father's own time.

May these words give you hope. Let us do what we have to do and that is to pray (among other things) and God will do what He promised. He knows best what and how to do it.

We pray, because we know God hears us.

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Eph.3:20