



**Getting the cart before the horse**  
**Genesis 16**  
**Week 6 of 14**

On a recent visit to two California vineyards, author Margaret Feinberg discovered that vintners must adopt a long-term approach to their work. According to Feinberg: The first year a vintner plants shoots of vines rather than seeds because these yield the strongest vines. At the end of the first growing season, he cuts them back. A second year passes. He cuts them back again. Only after the third year does he see his first viable clusters of grapes. Serious vintners leave those clusters on the vines. For most vintners, it's not until year four that they bring in their first harvest.

For those growing grapes for winemaking, they'll bottle their harvest, but won't taste the fruit of their labors until year seven or eight. Most vineyards in Napa Valley won't reach a breakeven point for their investment until year fifteen, eighteen or beyond.

Applying these insights to her spiritual life, Feinberg writes,  
Sometimes I look at my own life and wonder, *Why am I not more fruitful? And why does pruning have to hurt so much? Why does cultivating a healthy crop take so long?* Yet those questions circle around the here and now. God's perspective is much different. Like a good vineyard owner, he knows how to bring about fruitfulness better than I ever will. And he is patient with me, more patient than I am with myself ... [Also], as we fulfill our callings ... we must recognize that like the vintner's, our fruitfulness will not come overnight. The first harvest of our labors may not come for three or five years.



northeast daily reading

February 13, 2011



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# Abraham אברהם

## Getting the cart before the horse Genesis 16 Week 6 of 14

Our Daily Bible Reading this week will consist of people who waited patiently on the Lord and those who did not.

- DAY ONE – Genesis 16
- DAY TWO – Numbers 14
- DAY THREE – 1 Samuel 1-2:11
- DAY FOUR – Luke 2:21-40
- DAY FIVE – John 1:19-34

### Memory Verse:

“Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” (Psalm 27:14)



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