

Reading Genesis 4-II can quickly make you feel like God's good plans for humanity weren't going to work. There's a WHOLE LOT of really bad news!

- Cain kills his brother Abel (4)
- A man named Lamech brags to his two wives about killing a man (4)
- God sends the **flood** because of all the wickedness and violence on earth (6-8)...
- ...even Noah gets caught up in sin after the flood (9)
- The proud builders of the tower of **Babel** get themselves in trouble with the LORD (11)

How will anything GOOD come out of the mess that wicked hearts and sinful choices are making in the lives of every single family on earth? In Genesis 12, God made some wonderful promises to a 75-year-old man who didn't have any children:

Now the LORD said to <u>Abram</u>, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be **blessed**." (12:1-3)



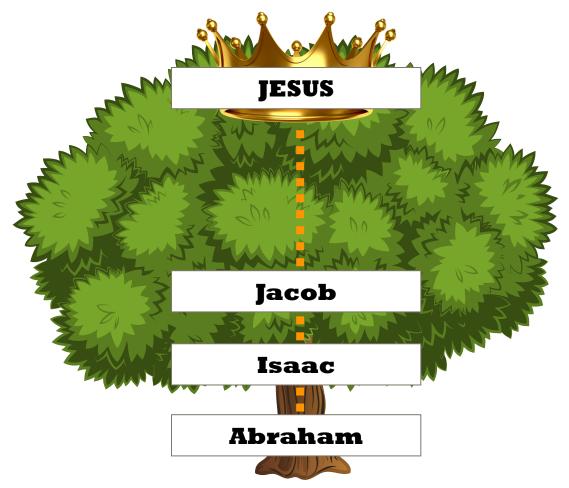
Years later, God made the same promises to Abraham's son, <u>Isaac</u> (Gen 26:2-4) and to Abraham's grandson, <u>Jacob</u> (Gen 35:10-12):

- Their family line would grow into a great nation
- That nation would have a beautiful land to live in
- Somehow, someway, "all the nations of the earth" would be blessed through this family line. How? Let's talk about it...

FOUNDATION STONES

Let's think about God fulfilling his three great promises to Abraham:

- Did he make Abraham's family line grow into a great **nation**? What was that nation called?
- Did he give that nation a beautiful **land** to live in? What was that land called? Can you find **Joshua 21:43-45** in your Bible? What does it tell us about God keeping his promise to Abraham's family?
- And what was God's **third** promise to Abraham? Did he keep that promise? **How did it come** true?



"Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and ... of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ." (Matthew 1:1-2, 16)