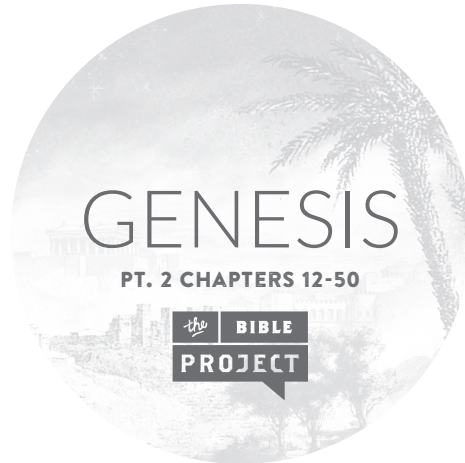


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THE BIG PICTURE

**CH 1-11
GOD AND THE WHOLE WORLD**

**CH 12-50
GOD AND ABRAHAM'S FAMILY**

**1-2: GOD MAKES A GOOD WORLD
FOR HUMANITY**

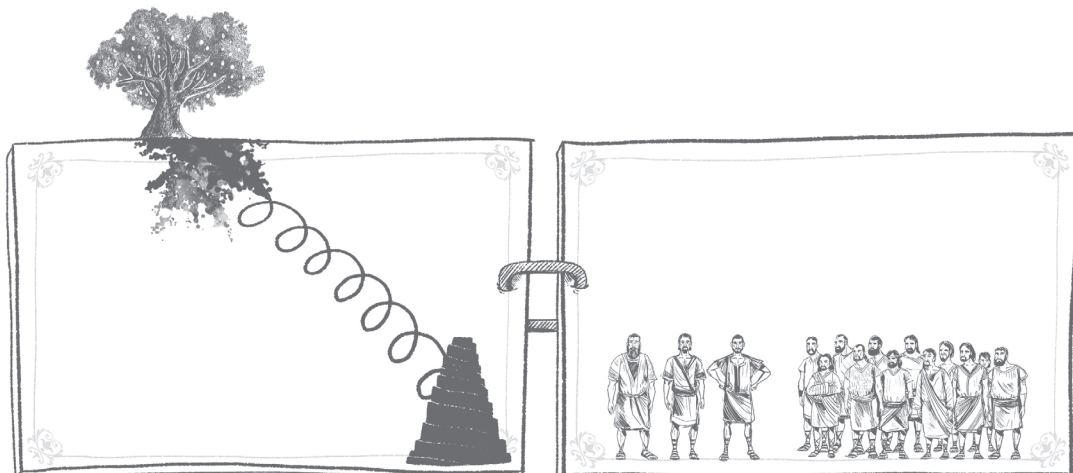
12-25: ABRAHAM

**3-11: HUMAN SIN AND THE RUIN
OF GOD'S WORLD**

26-27: ISAAC

28-36: JACOB

37-50: JOSEPH



**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 12-50**

KEY
THEME

1

Yahweh initiates His plan to rescue humanity through His covenant with the family of Abram*

GENESIS 12, 15 17

Genesis 12:1-3 is a key moment in the unfolding of the biblical story: God chooses one family out of the scattered nations from Genesis 11 so that He can rescue all nations.

*HIS NAMED IS CHANGED TO ABRAHAM IN GENESIS 17:5

THE PROMISE TO ABRAHAM CONSISTS OF A NUMBER OF KEY ELEMENTS THAT ARE DEVELOPED IN CHAPTERS 12-22



ABRAHAM AND SARAH GROWING INTO A NATION

GENESIS 12:1, 15:5, 17:1-8

INHERITING THE LAND OF CANAAN

GENESIS 12:7; 15:17-21

RECEIVING A GREAT NAME

IN CONTRAST TO THE BABEL-BUILDERS IN 11:4

ALL NATIONS WILL FIND GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH THIS FAMILY

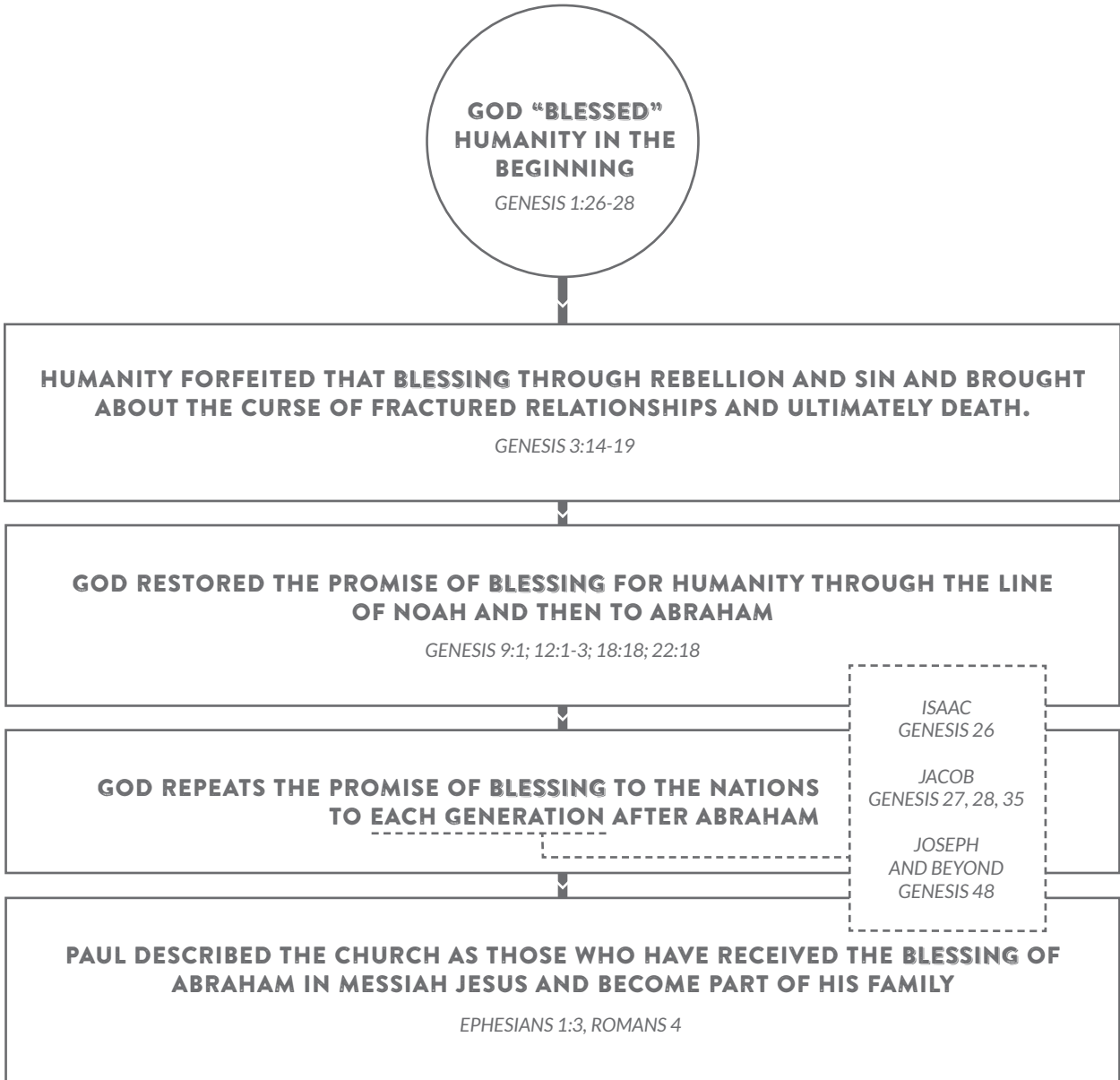
GENESIS 12:3; 18:18; 22:18

**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 12-50**

KEY
THEME

2

God's blessing to the nations through Abraham provides the foundational storyline for the rest of the Bible.



**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 12-50**

KEY
THEME

3

The drama of Genesis 12-50 consists of the sin and folly of the family of Abraham and how they constantly put God's promises into jeopardy.

ABRAHAM

ENDANGERS THE PROMISE OF A LARGE FAMILY BY GIVING AWAY HIS WIFE, TWICE!

GENESIS 12, 20

SARAH

TRIES TO FORCE GOD'S HAND TO GIVE THEM A CHILD BY HAVING ABRAHAM SLEEP WITH HAGAR

GENESIS 16, 21

ISAAC

GIVES AWAY HIS WIFE REBEKAH

GENESIS 26

JACOB

IS A THIEF AND A LIAR AND GAINS THE BLESSING BY STEALING

GENESIS 25, 27

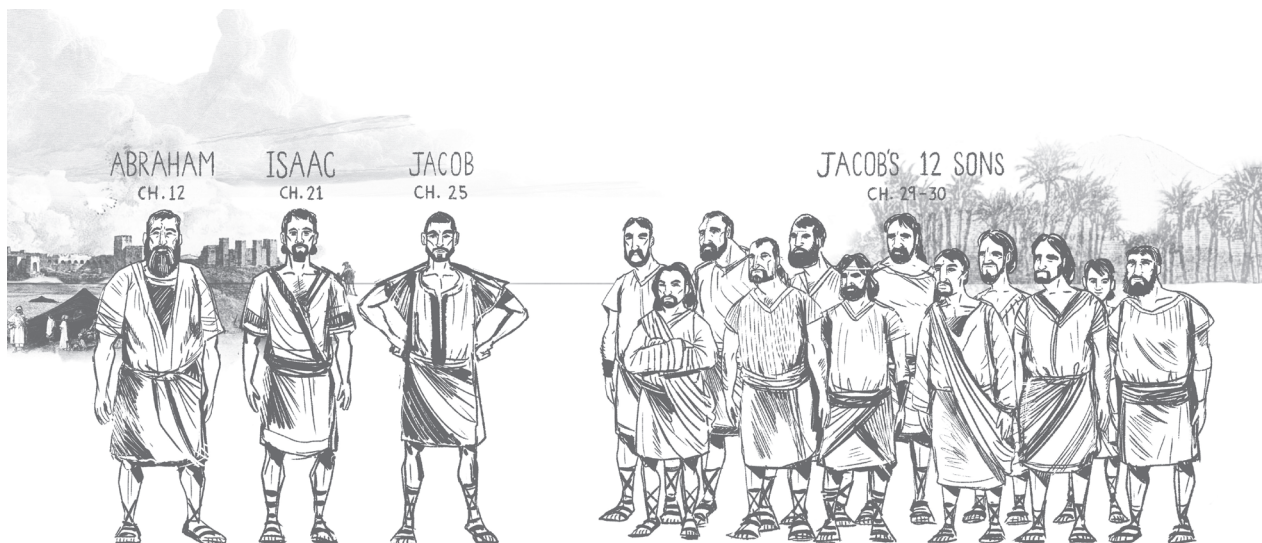
JOSEPH'S BROTHERS

TRY TO KILL HIM

GENESIS 37

THE POINT

Abraham's family is so dysfunctional that divine promises will only be fulfilled through God's faithfulness, not theirs.



**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 12-50**

KEY
THEME

4

God remains committed to this family and His promises, and constantly intervenes to rescue them.

A **GOD RESCUES SARAH (TWICE) AND REBECCA FROM THE FOLLY OF THEIR HUSBANDS.**

GENESIS 12:17-20; 20:6-10; 26:8-10

B **GOD PROVIDES AN HEIR FOR ABRAHAM AND SARAH.**

GENESIS 18, 21

C **GOD PROTECTS JACOB DESPITE HIS SELFISHNESS AND DECEPTION.**

GENESIS 27-35

D **GOD TRANSFORMS THE EVIL OF JOSEPH'S BROTHERS INTO SOMETHING THAT SAVES OF THE LIVES OF PEOPLE FROM MANY NATIONS.**

GENESIS 50:20

*THIS IS THE THEME VERSE OF
THE ENTIRE BOOK.*

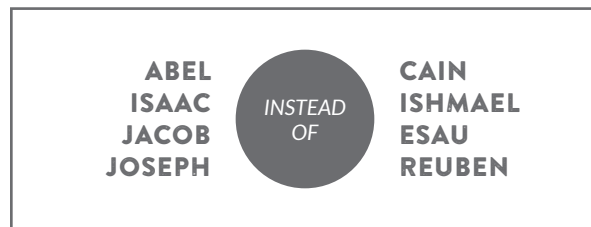
**KEY THEMES
IN GENESIS 12-50**

KEY
THEME

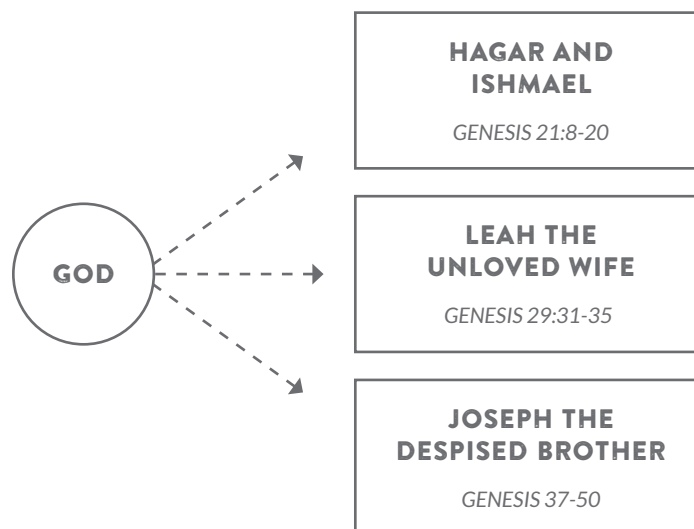
5

The pattern of how God works in the world begins in Genesis and continues through the Bible: He works through people of low status who are weak or marginalized.

- A** God does not make the firstborn sons the vehicles of His promise, but rather the unexpected children.



- B** God moves towards those who are rejected.



**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

1

WHAT CHARACTER TRAITS OF GOD ARE DISPLAYED IN HIS DECISION TO “BLESS” ALL NATIONS THROUGH ABRAHAM AFTER THE DISASTER OF BABEL?

GENESIS 11

2

TALLY UP ALL THE WAYS ABRAHAM AND SARAH MAKE BAD DECISIONS THAT THREATEN GOD’S DESIRE TO BLESS THEM. WHY SHOULD THIS PART OF THE STORY CHALLENGE US, AND COMFORT US?

GENESIS 12-22

3

WHAT ARE THE TWO HIGHLIGHT MOMENTS OF ABRAHAM’S STORY? HOW IS ABRAHAM OFFERED AS A POSITIVE EXAMPLE IN THESE CHAPTERS?

GENESIS 15, 22

4

WHAT ARE THE LOWLIGHT MOMENTS IN JACOB’S STORY THAT SHOW HE DOES NOT DESERVE TO INHERIT THE PROMISED BLESSING? WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US ABOUT GOD’S GRACE IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE?

GENESIS 27

5

HOW DO JOSEPH’S WORDS TO HIS BROTHERS SUMMARIZE GOD’S ROLE BOTH IN THE JOSEPH STORY, AND ALSO IN THE ENTIRE STORY SO FAR?

GENESIS 50:20

