

THE PROMISE OF GENESIS

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The Book of Genesis contains a number of promises from God, but taken as a whole, the promise of Genesis to the whole world involves a people, a family, and ultimately points to a person—Jesus Christ, whose sacrifice redeems those who believe (1 Pet. 1:18-21).

(1) **ADAM** (Gen. 1–3): Created in God’s **image** along with his wife, Eve, to rule the earth. Adam’s disobedience in Eden caused the fall of humanity into sin and the curse upon creation. Adam’s sin brought death, but God promised to send One who would bring life.

(2) **NOAH** (Gen. 6–9): A righteous and blameless man who **walked with God**. Obeyed God and built the ark, which saved his family and the living creatures with him from the flood.

(3) **ABRAM/ABRAHAM** (Gen. 12–25): Received God’s promise of land, **offspring**, and **blessing** for the world. The father of all who believe in God’s promises—in Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:11). Believed God’s promise of offspring though his wife was barren. Obeyed God’s command to sacrifice his son Isaac until God provided a substitute.

(4) **ISAAC** (Gen. 21–35): The son of promise through whom God would carry on His covenant with Abraham. Miraculously born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. Abraham’s “**only son**,” whom God asked to be sacrificed but was then spared with a substitute.

(5) **JACOB/ISRAEL** (Gen. 25–50): The father of the twelve tribes of Israel. Deceived his father to receive the blessing of the firstborn. Dreamed about a stairway connecting heaven to earth, and later wrestled with God, receiving a new name. Died in Egypt but buried by request in the promised land.

(6) **JUDAH** (Gen. 29–50): Fourth son born to Leah, Jacob’s unloved wife. Led his brothers to sell Joseph into slavery. Later, Judah offered himself as a substitute slave to gain the freedom of his brother Benjamin. Jacob prophesied that a descendant of Judah would rule all the peoples as **king**.

(7) **JOSEPH** (Gen. 30–50): First son born to Rachel, Jacob’s beloved wife. Sold into slavery by his brothers and unjustly imprisoned by his master—evil acts from which God worked out His good plan. Elevated over all of Egypt to preserve life for all nations, including his family, with whom he reconciled.

(8) **JESUS**: The second **Adam**, the **image** of God (Rom. 5). The promised Seed of the woman to crush the seed of the serpent by His death on the cross for sin and His resurrection to eternal life (Gen. 3:15; 1 John 3:8). The One who **walked with God** in perfect righteousness and is Immanuel, “God is with us” (Matt. 1:23). The promised Seed of **Abraham** who would be a **blessing** to all the nations through faith in Him (Gal. 3). The **One and Only Son** of God who would be sacrificed by His Father so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). The true **Israel** who is the connection between heaven and earth (John 1:51). The Lion from the tribe of **Judah**, the King to whom the obedience of the peoples rightly belongs (Rev. 5:5). The One nailed to a cross and killed by evil people, though, like **Joseph**, delivered up according to God’s determined plan and foreknowledge for the salvation of all who believe in Him; He was vindicated in the resurrection and exalted to the right hand of God as both Lord and Messiah (Acts 2:22-36).

