

The Book of Beginnings

Section 6

The Generations of Terah (11:27–25:11)

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The Offspring

1. God promises to make of Abraham a great nation (12:2)

The term “offspring” is used for the first time in 12:7.

2. God promises that his offspring will be like the dust of the earth (13:15–16)

This is the first of three comparisons.

3. God promises that his offspring will be like the stars of heaven (15:2–3)

This is the second of three comparisons. For 15:6, see Rom. 4:3, 21–22; Gal. 3:5–7.

4. God promises that he will be the father of many nations (17:2–4)

This follows his attempt to take matters into his own hands. See 16:16–17:1.

5. God promises that Sarah will have a son (17:21; 18:10)

God reveals: (1) His *grace* by eating with Abraham in his tent (18:1–8); (2) His *power* by proclaiming that a son will be born at the appointed time (18:9–15); (3) His *righteousness* by announcing the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (18:16–21); and (4) His *longsuffering* by listening to Abraham’s prayer (18:22–33).

6. God keeps His promise concerning the son (21:1)

This follows the incident with Abimelech, when the fulfilment of the promise is threatened (20:2).

7. God declares that Abraham's offspring will be named through Isaac (21:12)

8. God promises that his offspring will be like the sand on the seashore (22:17)

This is the third of three comparisons.

Fulfilment:

Christ is Abraham's offspring (Gal. 3:16)

Christ obtains everything that God promised Abraham (Gal. 3:16)

Those who believe in Christ are one with Him (Gal. 3:28)

They're Abraham's offspring (Gal. 3:28)

They obtain everything that God promised Abraham (Gal. 3:28)

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The Blessing

1. God promises that all the families of the earth will be blessed in Abraham (12:3)

2. God changes their names thereby demonstrating that the blessing is for the whole world (17:5, 15-16)

3. God confirms His promise (18:17-18; 22:17-18)

Fulfilment:

“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad (Jn. 8:56). Abraham's faith wasn't some abstract belief in God, but a belief in God's promise that a descendant would arrive in the line of his son, Isaac, to bless all the nations. With Christ's coming, the promise is fulfilled. The nations are blessed.

“In you shall all the nations be blessed. So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith” (Gal. 3:8–9). “So that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith” (Gal. 3:14). God made a promise to Abraham. God’s promise to Abraham has become a reality in Christ. The blessing of Abraham belongs to all those who believe in Christ. Also see Rom. 4:6–9.