



# The Big Picture

## Lesson 5: The Story Of The Bible (Part 3)

Think back to the three promises God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. First, God promised to make a great nation out of Abraham's descendants. God kept that promise whenever Abraham had Isaac, Isaac had Jacob, Jacob had twelve sons, those sons had children, and there was a great number by the time the Israelites left Egypt. The second promise was that God would give Abraham's descendants the land of Canaan. God kept this promise during the life of Joshua whenever the Israelites conquered the Canaan land. In this lesson, we now want to learn about how God kept His third promise to Abraham when He said that through Abraham's Seed (one of his descendants), all nations of the earth would be blessed.

**The life of Christ.** About 400 years passed with God saying nothing to people on earth. Then, God broke His silence whenever the time was right. In the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (known as the four "gospels"), God tells us about how He sent His only Son (Jesus Christ) to this earth in order to save people from their sins. God knew that all people on this earth were not listening to and obeying Him. And, He knew these people who sin will be punished someday. But, He also knew that there was only one way to save people from this punishment. That was Jesus Christ. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

When the time was just right, God sent Jesus Christ into this world. He was born in a miraculous way to his mother (Mary) and father (Joseph). Both Mary and Joseph were descendants from Abraham. Therefore, Jesus Christ was also Abraham's "Seed" (descendant). But, there was something very special about Jesus. Jesus was not just the son of Mary and Joseph. He was God's Son! Whenever Jesus was born, His name was to be called "Immanuel," which meant, "God with us."

So, Jesus was God living as man. And, whenever He lived on this earth, He always obeyed God. Jesus never did anything to disobey God. Then, during His life, He also taught people about how they should live to obey God in all things. To prove that He really was the

Son of God, He would work miracles. These miracles included turning water into wine, feeding a great number of people with a very small amount of food, healing the sick, making the paralyzed walk, causing the blind to see, and even raising the dead. There could be no doubt that Jesus really was the Son of God.

Yet, many people did not like Jesus. And, many people even wanted to hurt Him. So, these people decided that they would put Jesus Christ to death on a cross. By being killed, Jesus' blood made it possible for all people to be saved from the punishment of their sins (if they will obey what God says). And, God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day – just as Jesus had promised! Then, Jesus went up into Heaven. Today, Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of God.

**The church.** Whenever Jesus was living on this earth, He promised that He would build His church. And, after offering Himself as the sacrifice for sins and ascending to Heaven, His church (the church of Christ) was built. All the people who would hear God's saving message, believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, turn away from their sins, confess Jesus Christ, and be baptized in water were saved from their sins and added to this church. The books of Acts through Revelation in the New Testament teach us all about this church. Today, people who have sinned must still do these same things to be part of Jesus's church. And, those who are part of His church (who are called "Christians") must obey the instructions that are given in the pages of the New Testament (Matthew through Revelation). Those who obey God will live in Heaven with Him forever. Those who do not will be punished.

Through Jesus Christ, all people who ever live can be greatly blessed (just as God promised to Abraham)! Because of Jesus, those who had not obeyed God can be saved from their sins. All of the pieces of the Bible fit together perfectly to tell us this one story of how God loved us enough to send His only Son (Jesus Christ) into this world to save us from sin! Now, we should do the best that we can do to obey what He says in the Bible!

**Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series**

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# Study Questions:

- 1) What were the three promises made to Abraham?
- 2) What books of the Bible teach us the most about Jesus?
- 3) Who were Jesus' mother and father?
- 4) What was so special about Jesus?
- 5) What did Jesus do to prove that He was God's Son?
- 6) What did people do to Jesus because they did not like Him?
- 7) Where is Jesus today?
- 8) What did Jesus build?

## Memory Verse:

“[A]ccording to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord”  
(Ephesians 3:11).

**Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about:**