

November 30/December 1, 2024

"Son of Abraham"

Pastor Aaron Buer



SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

December: Read Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Haggai to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

Day 1 [Micah 5:2](#) | Jesus in Six Minor Prophets

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Micah 5:2

This year, we've been looking for Jesus in the Old Testament to see how God's plan always included Jesus saving us from our sins. As we enter December and celebrate Christ's birth, we see how six minor prophets point to Jesus's first and second coming, showing God's perfect timing in sending our Savior.

These minor prophets reveal various parts of God's redemptive plan. Obadiah proclaims God's justice against pride while pointing to Christ's future kingdom ([Obadiah 1:15](#)). Jonah's three days in the fish and mission to Nineveh foreshadow Jesus's death, resurrection and heart for all peoples ([Matthew 12:39-40](#)). Micah prophesies Jesus' humble birth in Bethlehem and promises his reign of peace, offering hope amid dark times ([Micah 5:2-5](#)). Nahum declares God's righteous judgment against evil, which Jesus will fully execute at his return ([Nahum 1:7-8](#)). Habakkuk teaches living by faith in desperate situations, pointing to Jesus's perfect trust in the Father's plan ([Habakkuk 2:4](#)). Haggai anticipates the true temple, fulfilled in Jesus whose presence dwells among the people ([Haggai 2:9](#), [John 1:14](#)).

Throughout these books, we see Jesus as both the suffering servant and conquering king, the baby born in Bethlehem and the judge who will return in glory. Each prophet provides a unique glimpse of Jesus's character, mission and coming kingdom. Together, they paint a picture of our Savior who brings justice and mercy, judgment and grace, sovereignty and sacrifice.

TODAY: As you read these prophets, ask God to show you how they point to Jesus. Thank him for sending Jesus to be our perfect ruler, righteous judge and eternal temple who fulfills all that Scripture said about him ([Luke 24:27](#)).

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Obadiah 1](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus teaches that those who exalt themselves will be humbled ([Matthew 23:12](#)).

Day 2 [Matthew 1:1-17](#) | Ancestors of the King

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham. Matthew 1:1

Matthew does not open his Gospel with action but with a carefully crafted genealogy. For his Jewish audience, this family tree is compelling evidence that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. The list includes prominent figures like Abraham and David. It also features surprising and unlikely people like Rahab, Tamar and Bathsheba. Each name tells a story of God's faithfulness. Through this genealogy, Matthew demonstrates that Jesus is the

fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and David—the one through whom all nations will be blessed and the eternal king who will reign forever.

We might be tempted to skip over genealogies in Scripture, but Jesus's family tree reveals something remarkable about God's heart. He works through both the expected and unexpected—saints and sinners, kings and outsiders. This week, we'll discuss the significance of Jesus as the Son of Abraham—fulfilling God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham's line. Throughout this month, as we journey through the Ancestors of the King, we'll discover how each person points to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises. Through Abraham, David, a group of unlikely women and his mother, Mary, we'll see God's perfect plan unfold through imperfect people. Including such diverse characters reminds us that God's grace extends to all who will trust him, regardless of their past or position.

TODAY: As we begin the Christmas season, take time to prepare your heart. Join Ada Bible Worship in singing "[Echo Holy](#)," reflecting on how Jesus's coming fulfilled centuries of waiting and hoping. Ask God to help you slow down this month and appreciate the significance of each person in Jesus's lineage.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jonah 1](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus is a greater, more willing sacrifice, giving his life for ours ([John 10:17-18](#)).

Day 3 [Genesis 12:1-4](#) | The Promise

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." Genesis 12:1

God appears to Abram (who will later be called Abraham) with an extraordinary request and promise. Without any prior relationship, God asks Abraham to leave everything familiar behind and journey to an unknown land. The request comes with a promise of blessing—divine favor and provision that would extend to all nations. Abraham's response is remarkable in its simplicity: he trusts God and goes. Matthew points to Jesus as the fulfillment of this ancient promise of blessing ([Matthew 1:1](#)). Through Jesus, the Son of Abraham, God's promise to bless all peoples finds its ultimate expression.

The path to blessing still begins with trust today. Just as Abraham took God at his word and acted, we're invited to trust God's promises fulfilled in Jesus. Divine blessing—God's favor and provision—isn't about material prosperity but about experiencing the fullness of life through a relationship with God. This comes through trusting Jesus's death on the cross as payment for our sins and following his way. When we trust God like Abraham, we can experience his blessing in this life and the next.

TODAY: How is God asking you to trust him? Maybe he's inviting you to trust Jesus for salvation for the first time, or perhaps he's calling you to trust him in a specific area of life. Share with a trusted friend where you sense God inviting you to trust him more fully and pray together for faith to take the next step.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jonah 2](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Consider how Jesus references the "sign of Jonah" ([Matthew 12:39-40](#)).

Day 4 [1 Peter 4:10](#) | The Call

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

God's promise to Abraham came with a purpose: "I will bless you... and you will be a blessing" ([Genesis 12:2](#)). The blessing wasn't meant to end with Abraham but to flow through him to others. Throughout the Old Testament, God positioned Israel at the crossroads of civilizations so they could be a blessing to surrounding

nations. Peter echoes this principle to early Christians, reminding them that their spiritual gifts aren't for personal benefit alone. Every blessing from God—talents, resources or spiritual gifts—is meant to be shared with others as part of God's plan to bless all peoples so they will come to trust God too.

We can easily become consumed with our own needs and wants, especially during the holiday season. But as spiritual children of Abraham through Jesus, we're called to live differently. God blesses us so we can bless others. Whether it's our time, abilities, finances or spiritual gifts, everything we've received from God is meant to be stewarded for the good of others. Jesus, as the Son of Abraham, perfectly modeled this by using his power and position to serve others. When we use our blessings to benefit others, we participate in God's promise to bless all peoples through Abraham's line.

TODAY: How has God blessed you? Take a moment to list specific ways—perhaps through relationships, how God met you in a hard space, abilities or resources. Then choose one tangible way to be a blessing to someone else this week. Invite a neighbor for dinner, help a coworker with a project or share your resources with someone in need. Take action and bless others.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jonah 3](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note God's heart for all nations, fulfilled in the Great Commission ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).

Day 5 [Genesis 12:2-3](#) | The Fulfillment

I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Genesis 12:2-3

God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham (then called Abram) finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. The Apostle Paul makes this clear by explaining that Jesus is the promised offspring of Abraham through whom all nations would be blessed ([Galatians 3:7-9](#)). This blessing means experiencing God's favor and provision in the fullest sense. God showed his favor by sending his Son, and through Jesus's sacrifice, he provides everything people need for a restored relationship with him. Jesus lived the perfect life that people couldn't live and died the death humanity deserved, becoming the ultimate provision for sins.

When we trust Jesus, we receive this incredible blessing of forgiveness and restoration. We are adopted into God's family and experience his favor as beloved children. Through Jesus, we receive provision for both eternal life and abundant life now ([John 10:10](#)). He has provided forgiveness for our sins through his death on the cross and given us his Holy Spirit to guide and empower us to live the life he intended. This remarkable demonstration of God's favor and provision through Jesus isn't meant to stop with us—like Abraham, we're called to share this blessing with others.

TODAY: Who do you know that needs to hear about God's blessing through Jesus this Christmas season? Consider inviting them to experience the hope of Jesus at one of our Christmas services. Sometimes, the simplest invitation can open the door to a life-changing blessing. Find service times and details at adabible.org/christmas.

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: Read [Jonah 4](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Reflect on God's compassion, which Jesus perfectly demonstrates ([Luke 19:41-42](#)).