



GENESIS 12-50
THE PROMISE
2009 TERM 2

Term 2 outline for The Promise-Genesis 12-50

Week	Passage	Title
1	Genesis 12-14	The Promised Land
2	Genesis 15:1-18:15	The Covenant & the Promise
3	Genesis 18:16-19:38	Sodom & Gomorrah
4	Genesis 20-23	Sarah, Isaac & Ishmael
5	Genesis 24-26	Life of Isaac
6	Genesis 27-28	The Blessing of Jacob
7	Genesis 29-35	The Struggles of Jacob
8	Genesis 36-38	Introducing Jacob & Judah
9	Genesis 39-45	Joseph in Egypt
10	Genesis 46-50	Jacob in Egypt

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

Pray for 3 friends, once a week, for 1 minute (3-1-1).

List the names of your family/friends here.

Genesis guide

How to use this book

1. Personal Reading

- Use this guide to help you read your bible everyday.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

2. Home Groups

- Take this guide with you to your home group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

3. Church

- Keep this guide with your bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

Introduction to Gen 12-50

Genesis gives the account of the origins of the world, the nations, and Israel. Genesis 1-11 and 12-50 are quite different. Chapters 1-11 provide the cosmic backdrop. The God who called the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob) is not just a local divinity, rather the creator and sustainer of the entire universe. Chapters 12-50 are mainly concerned with the Patriarchs of Israel and their transformation into a distinct nation belonging to God.

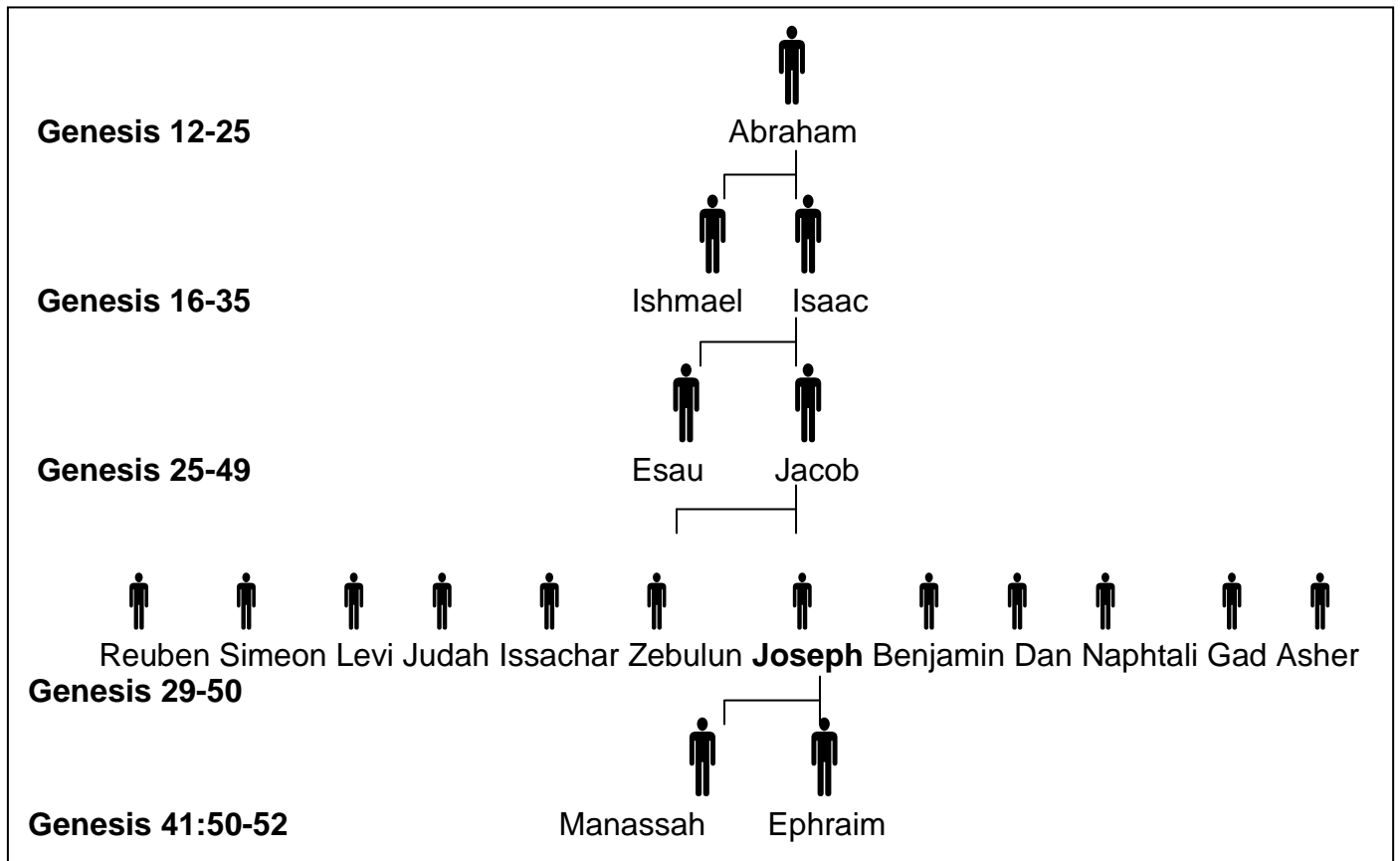
This second section of Genesis (12-50) begins with God's promise to Abraham. The promise of God to Abraham marked the beginning of the Israelite people. It is through them that God was to bring about his promises to Abraham. We see throughout Chapter 12 God's purpose for Israel and why they will have such a central role in the rest of the Bible. In God's promise to Abraham we notice three key points – the promise of blessing, the promise of becoming a great nation and the promise of a land of their own. Gen 4-11 showed the outworking of the curse of sin whereas after Gen 12 it is all about the reversal of the curse of sin on mankind, through Abraham and his descendants.

The rest of Genesis (and the rest of the Bible) is a record of how God brings these things about, in, through and despite his people. It is a history which testifies to God's faithfulness to his promises to Abraham.

AUTHORSHIP

The Pentateuch, or Five Books, of which Genesis is the first, was credited to Moses by universal tradition of the Jews, which Jesus takes for granted and endorses with his own authority (e.g., Mark 12:26; John 5:46, 47).

Key Figures in Genesis 12-50





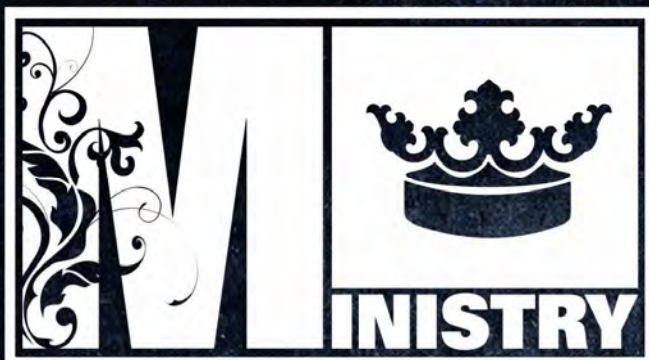
NEWISH

how we started and where we're heading



the beliefs our church is grounded on

DOING LIFE IN THE WORD TOGETHER



serving to build Christ's church

Week 1: 12-14 The promised land

Day 1

Read Genesis 12:1-9

1. What were the key parts of God's promise to Abraham?

2. Why should these promises to a Jewish man thousands of years ago have anything to do with you? See Galatians 3:8, 13-14

Give thanks that despite our unworthiness God has made it possible for us Gentiles to justified by Jesus' death.

Day 2

Read Genesis 12:1-9

1. God gave both commands and promises in his call to Abram. How, as a result of these commands and promises, did Abram show his faith?
See Heb. 11:8.

2. In a similar way how should our faith express itself? See James 2:14-18

Day 3

Read Genesis 12:10-20

1. In what two ways did Abram's faith fall short under the tests of famine and fear?
2. When he acted unworthily how was he rebuked?
3. When are you tempted to not trust God?

Pray that you will trust our trustworthy God, especially in hardship.

Day 4

Read Genesis 13:1-18

- 1 Put yourself in Lot's place when Abram's offer was made to him. What do you think was the motive that decided his choice, and how did it end?
2. What did Abram lose by letting Lot choose first?
3. What is good about this sort of attitude?

Pray for a similar attitude to God & others.

Day 5

Read Genesis 14

1. What fresh light do the events of chapter 14 throw on Abram's character?
2. What do we learn about God and his character from this chapter, especially v18-24?
3. How do these characteristics give you comfort in your situation?

Pray for humility & a thankfulness that all things come from our good God, that he may be glorified

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 2: Genesis 15-18:15

The covenant & the promise

Day 1

Read Genesis 15

1. How are God's words in verse 1 exactly related to Abram's circumstances and condition?
2. In utterly hopeless human circumstances (see Gen. 11:30; 15:3) how did Abram find the hope of having descendants?
3. How did he response to this promise from God?

Pray that you may be one who trusts the words of God in the way Abraham did.

Day 2

Read Genesis 15

1. What else did Abram gain by his response other than descendants?
2. What does this teach us about the gospel? See Rom. 4:2-5, 13-25.

Give thanks that we can be made righteous before God simply by trusting him!

Day 3

Read Genesis 16

1. Gen. 16:1-6. In what ways did Abram act wrongly in having a son by Hagar? How was he misled?
2. Was Sarah right to blame Abram for the wrong done to her?
3. What ought Abram to have thought, said and done in the face of such a situation?

Pray for patience in trying circumstances, believing that God works through all things for the good of those who love him.

Day 4

Read Genesis 17

1. Have a look at the characteristics of the covenant-making mentioned here. What were the blessings which Abraham was to be given through this covenant?
2. What did Abraham have to take hold of the promise that the covenant offered?
3. What do we learn here of God's character and purposes from his dealings with Hagar and Ishmael?
Check out Gen. 16:7-15; 17:18-21

Give thanks to God that many thousands of years later his word is true and he remains to his everlasting covenant. Praise God we are able to be part of this inheritance!

Day 5

Read Genesis 18:1-16

1. How would you describe what happens in this account?
2. How do these other verses shed light on what happened here? - Heb. 13:2; Rev. 3:20
3. What were the benefits of Abraham's experience?

Pray for an hospitable heart like Abraham's. Bring to God any situations or relationships you are having a hard time trusting him with, as Sarah did.

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 3: Genesis 18:16-19:31 Sodom & Gomorrah

Day 1

Read Genesis 18:16-33

1. Verses 22-33. What are the key things that stand out about Abraham's intercession between God & the cities he was to destroy?
2. Make a list of those characteristics that should also mark our praying.

Pray in that way for those you know don't yet know Jesus as their Saviour.

Day 2

Read Genesis 18:16-33

1. What was the effect of Abraham's negotiation?
2. Check out Proverbs 15:8, 1 Peter 3:12. Who does God say he listens to and does that apply to you?

Bring your requests to God who listens to his people.

Day 3

Read Genesis 19

1. What is revealed in this chapter about:
(a) the evil that is in the heart of people

(b) the certainty of God's judgment

(c) the place of God's mercy

(d) the urgency of immediate action while there is time to escape?

Pray - Are there things in your life that you need to bring before God today and ask for his mercy through Jesus?

Day 4

Read Luke 17:20-37

1. How is the return of Jesus like the event at Sodom & Gomorrah?
2. What warnings do we get from this account?
3. How do these warnings help you keep your eyes on what is important?

Pray that you will be alert and ready for the return of Jesus.

Day 5

Read Genesis 19

1. What did Lot gain for himself and his family by his association with Sodom?
2. In what ways should he be a warning to us?

Ask God that you may have a heart for him and not be led astray by the things of this world.

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 4: 20-23 Sarah, Isaac & Ishmael

Day 1

Read Genesis 20

1. What may we learn from Gen. 20 of the weakness of human nature, even in a believer?
2. What do we learn about God's protecting care and saving grace?
3. See also Mark 14:38; 1 Cor. 10:12-13. How are these verses a challenge and comfort?

Give thanks for the promise that God will uphold you in times of temptation and ask for the strength and courage to resist.

Day 2

Read Genesis 21:1-21

1. `Isaac' means `laughter'. What is the difference between Sarah's laughter in 18:12 and in 21:6? How was the change brought about?
2. What was Ishmael cast out from, and why?
3. Read Rom. 9:6-9 & Gal. 4:28-30. Why did God nevertheless hear Ishmael's voice, and grant him his blessing and his presence? How do these New Testament passages highlight our situation?

Praise God that we can be children of the light because of the cross of Christ.

Day 3

Read Genesis 21:22 - 22:24

1. In what ways was the command of verse 2 a most severe test of Abraham's faith in God? Note the significance of the comment in Heb. 11:17.
2. Where did Abraham expect to get, and where did he expect to find, the answer to the questions that he could not answer? How did his faith express itself? See also James 2:20-24.

Pray about difficult things you are going through, that you will trust God.

Day 4

Read Genesis. 21:22-34.

1. What was it about Abraham that made Abimelech believe that a covenant between them would be kept?
2. Do you see similar evidences in your life that will make others trust you and admire our God? See also Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12.

Pray for opportunities to live such a godly life that people praise God

Day 5

Read Genesis 23

1. What features in Abraham's character does this account bring out?
2. See Heb. 11:9-16. What can we learn from his example concerning the right way to face both life and death?
3. Even though we live on the other side of Christ's life, death and resurrection, how do we also face death in a similar way to Abraham and Sarah?

Give thanks for the hope we have in the face of death. Pray for those we know who don't have that hope.

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 5: Genesis 24-26 Life of Isaac

Day 1

Read Genesis 24:1-60

1. What can we learn from the attitude of Abraham's servant in his relation to:

(a) his master, and

(b) the task given to him?

2. What were his confidence and concern? cf. Col. 3:22-24.

Pray for a similar attitude to the Lord in the things you do during the week.

Day 2

Read Genesis 24:1-60

1. Look at the way the servant made his choice, and the test he used. What did he become particularly conscious of? What is commendable about this in a person?

2. What picture do we get of Rebekah? What attributes are ones you could work on and pray for in your own life

Pray for the godly characteristics you would like to grow in your life.

Day 3

Read Genesis 25:1-18

1. Review Abraham's life. What gives him an outstanding place in world history and makes him a key example to us all? See also Is. 41:8; Gal. 3:9, 29.

Give thanks to God that he has been faithful to his promise to Abraham in Gen.12:1-3.

Day 4

Read Genesis 24:61-25:34

- 1 From this passage, what kind of man is Isaac shown to be?
See 24:63-67; 25:28.
- 2 Compare Jacob and Esau, as described in 25:27-34, in their habits, character and spiritual outlook. What lesson is drawn in Heb. 12:14-17 from Esau's actions in regard to his birthright?

Pray along the lines of the Hebrews passage for your own life.

Day 5

Read Genesis 26

1. Why did Isaac fail so badly after receiving such striking promises from God?

2. What was different about his reaction when the promises were repeated?

3. Are God's promises to his people a comfort to you? (e.g. John 3:16, Eph. 2:6-7)

Give thanks for God's overwhelming generosity to us as people who don't deserve it.

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 6: Genesis 27-28 The blessing of Jacob

Day 1

Read Genesis 27:1-45

1. Trace the roles played by each of the characters in this account. What motive influenced each one?
2. Why was God pleased to bless Jacob? See Gen. 25:23 & Rom. 9:10-13.
3. Is God being fair here?

Thank God for sending Jesus for you, even though we have done everything to not deserve it.

Day 2

Read Genesis 27:22-45

1. What was the nature of Esau's grief (verses 34, 38)?
2. Did it have anything to do with repentance? cf. Heb. 12:17; 2 Cor. 7:10.
3. Is there any similar grief without repentance in your life?

Repent and ask forgiveness for these things.

Day 3

Read Genesis 27:46 - 28:9

1. How does the essential difference between the two brothers show itself more and more?
2. What truth concerning God's choice does Isaac now clearly recognize?
3. How does the sovereignty of God sit with you? When do you find it comforting and when do you find it difficult to accept?

Pray about any issues that you have about this at the moment and ask that God will enable you to trust him.

Day 4

Read Genesis 28:10-22

1. What was the significance of Jacob's dream? (See also John 1:51)
2. At what point in his experience did this dream happen?
3. How do you think this would have made him feel?

Give thanks for God's ongoing plan despite the people he has to work with (including us!)

Day 5

Read Genesis 28:10-22

1. What great truths was Jacob made aware of concerning:

(a) God,

(b) God's purpose for his own life?

2. What response did he make?

3. Even though this is a unique situation, there is much to be learnt from Jacob's response. How far have you gone in similarly making God's promises your own?

Ask God to help you in trusting his promises to his people

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 7: Genesis 29-35 The struggles of Jacob

Day 1

Read Genesis 29 - 30:43

1. Compare Laban's trickery in his deals with Jacob with Jacob's earlier trickery in his dealings with Esau and with Isaac. Can we see God's hand here?
2. What practical lessons did Jacob learn? See 31:42; 32:10-12.
3. Which of Jacob's wives was the ancestor of Jesus? See Prov. 16:9, Heb. 7:14.
4. What does this event tell us about the type of people God uses for his purposes?

Pray that God may use you for his glory this week.

Day 2

Read Genesis 31:1 - 32:2

1. Six more years have passed (31:41). To what extent is Jacob 'the deceiver' now a changed man? See 31:6, 38-42.
2. Also, what evidence is there that he has come to a deeper knowledge of God? See 31:3-13, 42.
3. What factors combined to make Jacob sure that God's time for him to return to Canaan had come and how was the inevitable opposition of Laban overcome?

4. What can you learn for your own encouragement from this event?

Pray for a heart to grow & become more mature in your walk with God.

Day 3

Read Genesis 32:3-32

1. What is good, and what is defective in Jacob's prayer in verses 9-12?
2. Do you think he was relying mostly on God, or on his own resourcefulness?
3. If the former, should he to have been so greatly afraid (verse 7)? cf. Mark 4:40; 5:36.
4. Do you struggle to trust God in difficult times? Are there things you need to trust him with at the moment? Pray that you will.

Day 4

Read Genesis 33-34

1. In Chapter 33 what indications do we see that Jacob struggled to trust God and other indicators that he was very thankful that God did look after him (see 33:20)?
2. In this sordid account in Ch. 34, which appears the more honourable, Shechem and his father, or the sons of Jacob? How different to 1 Pet. 2:12; 4:15!

Pray 1 Cor. 10:12 for yourself.

Day 5

Read Genesis 35

1. What actually provoked Jacob's repentance, and what new revelation was given to him after his repentance?
2. What does this record demonstrate therefore concerning God's character and his demands? See also 2 Tim. 2:19.

Praise God, the One and Only, for his faithfulness throughout the ages, the Great Promise Keeper.

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 8: Genesis 36-38 Introducing Joseph & Judah

Day 1

Read Genesis 36

In chapter 10, before the writer concentrates on the line of Abraham, the names of other nations are recorded. In a similar way in this chapter, before concentrating on the family of Jacob, a list of Esau's descendants is given.

1. Jacob and Esau were both sinners. What, however, was the vital and decisive difference between them? See Heb. 12:16, 17.
2. What can you learn from their lives? Hebrews 12:1-2

Pray that God will enable you to throw off the sin that entangles you and pray that you may be able to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.

Day 2

Read Genesis 36

1. It was foretold before their birth that each of Rebekah's twin sons would produce a nation (25:23). One of the nations was chosen of God and the other rejected. Why?
See especially Obadiah 1-4, 8-10, 17-18; Mal. 1:2-5.
2. What do we discover about God from this account?

Pray - Give thanks that it's possible that through Jesus we don't have to be under the wrath of God.

Day 3

Read Genesis 37:1-11

1. What three things especially aroused the envy and hatred of Joseph's brothers against him?
2. To what other sins did their envy lead them? See also Jas. 3:16.
3. Is this an issue in your life at the moment and what can you do to get rid of it?

Pray for forgiveness for the envy in your life and ask for God's strength to rid your life of it.

Day 4

Read Genesis 37:12-36

1. How should we respond to:
 - (a) Jacob's possessive love for Joseph,
 - (b) his favouritism in his treatment of him,
 - (c) the terrible gloom to which the loss of Joseph led him?
2. What should we learn from this account?

Pray in light of what you learnt.

Day 5

Read Genesis 38

1. Where did all the events of sin & shame start? See Gen, 24:3; 26:34-35; 27:46 - 28:4.

2. What can we learn from those who actively disobeyed God?

Pray for a desire to trust God's good plan for how we should live.

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 9: Genesis 39-45 Joseph in Egypt

Day 1

Read Genesis 39

1. How did Joseph demonstrate the best qualities of his ancestors: the faith and faithfulness of Abraham, the meekness of Isaac, the energy and ability of Jacob, the beauty of Rachel?
2. Over what temptations did Joseph win the victory? What was the key to his success?

Pray for God's wisdom and holiness in your life - that you may be a godly person like Joseph.

Day 2

Read Genesis 40:1 - 41:13

1. In this passage what qualities of Joseph are shown? Try to find at least five.
2. How did God make Joseph's prison experiences work together for good?
3. Why were victory over temptation, and use of opportunities to prove God and help others, so important at this stage?

Pray that your life may be a godly witness to others, even in difficult times.

Day 3

Read Genesis 41:14-57

1. What in Joseph so impressed Pharaoh and his court that he was made ruler of Egypt?

Compare your own character and consistency with his, and consider where you fall short.

2. What do we discover about God through this account?

Pray that you may be more Christ-like everyday.

Day 4

Read Genesis 42 -43

1. How do you think Joseph would have been feeling toward:

a) his brothers

b) toward God at this stage?

2. How mistaken was the attitude of Jacob in verse 42:36? What may we learn from this about our own attitude when everything seems against us? cf. Ps. 43:5; Romans 8:28

Pray along these lines.

Day 5

Read Genesis 44-45

1. How do the actions of Joseph's brothers in this chapter show a real change in them?
2. Observe how in this second visit to Egypt Judah takes the lead; see 43:3, 8; 44:14, 16, 18. What qualities are revealed in his speech in verses 18-34?
3. How does he show himself to be a fine example of one who has repented? See 37:26, 27; 38:1; Ps. 119:59.

Pray about the ways God is working repentance in your life at the moment.

Prayer Points & Notes

Week 10: Genesis 46-48

Jacob in Egypt

Day 1

Read Genesis 46:1-47:12

1. In what way would the fulfilment of the promise in 46:3 be easier in Egypt than in Canaan? What do we learn from this of God's providence?
2. How does this passage illustrate 2 Cor. 4:17, 18. How being on the other side of Jesus do we have an advantage over God's people then?

Give thanks for Jesus & the joy we have before us of eternity with him.

Day 2

Read Genesis 47:13 - 48:22

1. By their own confession, what did Joseph do for the people of Egypt? How did he remain true to God amid all the pressures of his office?
2. In what ways did God remain faithful to his promises to Isaac and how can we see that some parts of the promise are still to come (go back to 28:3-4)?
3. Would you have remained faithful in Jacob's situation?

Give thanks that God has chosen a people of His Own throughout history and, although we don't deserve it, He has upheld us at every stage of his promise being fulfilled.

Day 3

Read Genesis 49

1. Consider how diverse and unpromising the people were who God chose to fulfil his promises. See also Deut, 7:7- 8; 9:4-5.
2. Part of the way God chose to do this is described in verses 24, 25a. Have you learnt this as the key for being on the winning side? cf. Phil. 4:13; 2 Cor. 12:9.

Give thanks for our great victor Christ, the one who works through us for His glory.

Day 4

Read Genesis 50

1. Comparing 50:1-13 with 28:13-15, reflect how faithful God had been in the fulfilment of His promises even in Jacob's own lifetime. cf. Ps.146:5, 6.
2. Why were the brothers slow to believe that Joseph had forgiven them? What was Joseph's reaction? Do we ever similarly grieve God?

Ask for forgiveness for any of these areas in your life at the moment.

Day 5

Read Genesis 50

1. What took place during the years between Jacob's coming to Egypt and Joseph's death? See verses 22, 23; Exod. 1:7.
2. How does this make Joseph's faith (see verses 24, 25) the more striking? cf. Heb. 11:22.

Pray for a similar trusting faith in God and his promises. Thank him that we have had the privilege to see the pinnacle of God's promise in Jesus, the one whom God's people waited thousands of years for.

Prayer Points & Notes

Adapted from Search the Scriptures: A Three-Year Daily Devotional Guide to the Whole Bible by Alan M. Stibbs. Copyright(c) 2004 Inter-Varsity Press: Sixth Edition. Used by permission of InterVarsity Press P.O. Box 1400 Downers Grove, IL 60515.
www.ivpress.com.

