



## The God who keeps his promises (Genesis 11:27-12:20)

How would you sum up the Bible's plot in a sentence ?

### Context

The first eleven chapters of Genesis compress the history of mankind from creation to the early second millennium BC into a brief overview which is written from a theological perspective. The rest of Genesis, 39 chapters in all, deals with only four generations of one family : Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.<sup>1</sup>

*'Within the book of Genesis no sections more significant than 11:27-12:9'* Gordon J. Wenham

All of world history is related to the promises that God makes to Abraham. The final meaning of history is found in the fulfilment of these promises in Abraham's descendent - Jesus of Nazareth.<sup>2</sup>

### Experience & Reflection 11:27 - 12:10

11:27-32 : draw Terah's family tree

12:1-9 : give a one sentence headline for each section

- i. (1-3)
- ii. (4-6)
- iii. (7-9)

12:10-20 Does anything surprise you about the character of the leading characters in these verses ?

### Theorisation

#### 12:1-9

What is the nature of the blessing that God promises ?

Is there anything in Abraham that would lead God to choose him for blessing/to be father of His people ?

Land (earth)(1:28) -> Hebrews 11:6

Nation -> 1 Peter 2:9

Blessing -> Ephesians 1:3; Revelation 7:9

What does God expect from Abraham ?

Are there any problems/hiccups indicated to do with the promises' fulfilment ? (11:30, 12:6b, 12:10-20)

#### 12:10-20

What do we learn about the nature of God's promise in the face of human frailty ?

Why do you think Abraham goes to Egypt during a famine and is sent out by the Pharaoh with all his plenty ?

### Application

How are God's promises fulfilled in Jesus (Acts 3:25, Gal 3:8)

How should we see Abraham as an example to us ? (Hebrews 11:8-19, cf Hebrews 12:1-3)

<sup>1</sup> Goldsworthy, Gospel and Kingdom, 155.

<sup>2</sup> Paraphrase of Goldsworthy, Gospel and Kingdom, 155.