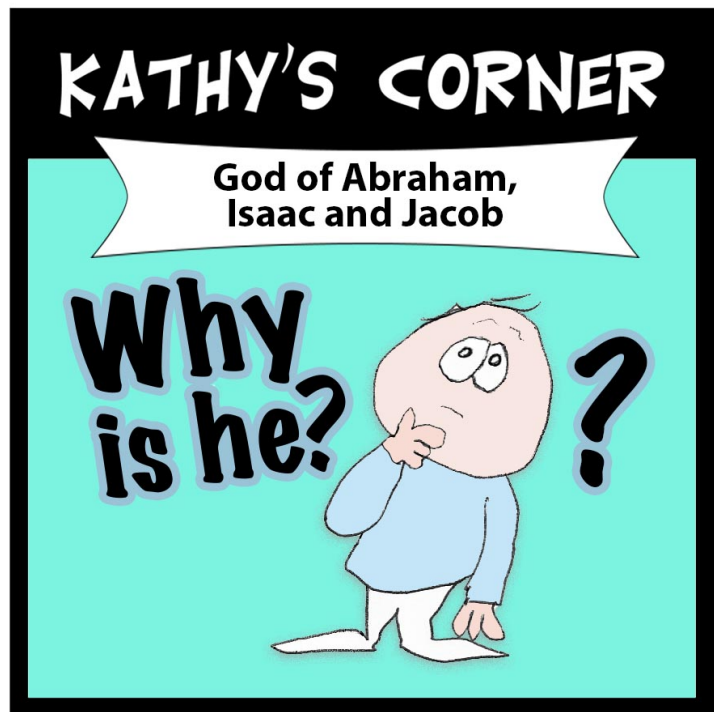


## God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

For some time now I have been wondering **why does God call Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.** I do not have a complete answer to this, but it has been an interesting dive. In looking at the stories of these three men, I have seen promises of God, *types* (which are historic people, institutions or events ordained by God that foreshadow or prefigure a greater reality) of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and the bride of Christ; and I have seen very flawed men, as well. As I have bitten off more than I can chew; I will wonder still, but I hope you will find the nuggets I present interesting and helpful.



Since the stories of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob intertwine as one generation has not ended before the next begins, I will present them separately, but also comment on their relation in their dealings with one another, hopefully in a clear way.

What I believe to be the overall view of why God calls Himself the God of these three, simply stated, is that **through them there is a presentation/revelation of the perfect and complete plan of God for the world that “God so loved.”** —through them a representation of a covenant, its fulfillment, and the Bride of Christ. Though they were merely flawed men, God does not want them forgotten.

### Abraham

**Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,  
you who seek the Lord:**

**Look to the rock from which you were cut,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.**

**Look to Abraham your father,  
and to Sarah who gave birth to you.**

**When I called him, he was only one;  
I blessed him and made him many.** (Isaiah 51:1-2 CSB)

Many of us know Abraham to be the Father of Faith, as this is what he demonstrated often. His faith was tested to the extreme when he was told to sacrifice his only **promised son**, and he would have had he not been stopped because he believed God, **“He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead; therefore, he received him back, figuratively speaking.”** (Hebrews 11:19 CSB) This makes Abraham a *type* of the father who gave His only Son for the world. This also makes Isaac a *type* of Jesus (more on this when I get to Isaac).

I think about the miraculous birth of the son of Abraham and Sarah, both much too old to have children without a miracle. Although in no way equivalent to the virgin birth of Jesus, it is none-the-less miraculous—this son being a *type* of the Son.

The Covenant—Established by blood. (See Genesis 15) In this chapter God tells Abraham he will not remain childless, but will have a son from his own body who will be his heir. **He took him outside and said, “Look at the sky and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “Your offspring will be that numerous.”** (Verse 5 CSB) As proof that he would possess the land God was promising to him, God made a covenant passing through the animals He had instructed Abraham to divide. There was blood. (Usually both parties passed through in making a covenant. This was not required of Abraham.) This is the covenant that applies to us. Paul made a point of the gentiles being grafted into Israel. (See Romans 11:11-24) So, what I would point out here is through blood (of Jesus) we are part of the numerous offspring of Abraham.

I thought also about Abraham wanting a bride for his son Isaac, and how **he sent his faithful servant** to find a suitable **bride from his own family for his son.** This would be a *type* of the **Father having the Holy Spirit accomplish this for Jesus.** This is a *type* of the Church—the Bride from **His family,** drawn by the Holy Spirit.

### Isaac

To further the fact of Isaac being a *type* of Jesus, would you consider some facts about when his father was told to sacrifice him? Although there is no indication of Isaac’s exact age, we see that his father put the wood for the sacrifice on him to carry. **Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the knife, and the two of them walked on together.** (Genesis 22:6 CSB) What can be gleaned here? The wood could be a *type* of the cross the Father placed on Jesus. A burnt offering was a voluntary sacrifice that represented complete consecration and submission to God—the sacrifice would describe Jesus. Then there was the sacrifice bound by Abraham. As I said, we don’t know Isaac’s age, but he was old enough to carry the burden of quite a load of wood (considering the size of the sacrifice to be burnt). This indicates Isaac would have been strong enough to have put up a fight if he wanted to, but there is no indication that he did. Scripture tells us that earlier Isaac had asked where the sacrifice was, so I think there would be a record of him resisting if he had; instead, he was willing to be sacrificed. Abraham and Isaac went the final part of the journey to sacrifice without the others Abraham had appointed to come along initially. Jesus was alone with God from those who were initially with Him.

Isaac received the bride his father appointed for him. Scripture says he was comforted by her. His bride, Rebekah, was asked by her family, who wanted a delay in her leaving, if she was willing to go with the faithful servant to be Isaac’s wife, although she had never seen him.

**They called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?”**

**She replied, “I will go.”** (Genesis 24:58 CSB)

Most of the Bride of Christ has never seen Jesus, but they are willing to be His bride.

Isaac was the promised son, as was Messiah promised over and over again in the Old Testament.

We can also see Isaac as a flawed human being with a favorite son, whereas Jesus is no respecter of people. Rebekah was also flawed to the point she favored the other son, Jacob, and participated in, directed and encouraged deceiving Isaac for Jacob’s sake. No doubt we do not have a sinless “Jesus” in Isaac, or a bride without spot or blemish in Rebekah.

## Jacob

I honestly don't know exactly how Jacob fits in, or who exactly he typifies, but there are some things about him to think about. I think we all know how deceitful and manipulative he was for a big part of his life. Some of that came back on him through Laban, his father-in-law, who was also deceitful. What I think should be noted is that there was a day when Jacob finally came to end of himself and accepted fully the God of his fathers as his own Lord.

Jacob wasn't the firstborn, but he valued the birthright more than his brother who was born first. He valued the blessing of his father, and received it through deceit. His brother didn't value his birthright and sold it for a mere meal—we are warned not to do the same. **And make sure that there isn't any immoral or irreverent person like Esau, who sold his birthright in exchange for a single meal. For you know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, even though he sought it with tears, because he didn't find any opportunity for repentance.** (Hebrews 12:16-17 CSB) We have to beware of valuing pleasures the world offers and temporary things we can see in preference to the eternal and spiritual inheritance God has for us. Perhaps Jacob is a *type* of us. **We struggle to be in control of our destiny, but only God is.**

Jacob addresses the God of the covenant reminding Him of His covenant:

Then Jacob said, **“God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the Lord who said to me, ‘Go back to your land and to your family, and I will cause you to prosper,’ I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant. Indeed, I crossed over the Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two camps. Please rescue me from my brother Esau, for I am afraid of him; otherwise, he may come and attack me, the mothers, and their children. You have said, ‘I will cause you to prosper, and I will make your offspring like the sand of the sea, too numerous to be counted.’”** (Genesis 32:9-12 CSB)

There comes a day when Jacob becomes Israel.

Jacob was left alone, and **a man** wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he could not defeat him, he struck Jacob's hip socket as they wrestled and dislocated his hip. Then he said to Jacob, **“Let me go, for it is daybreak.”**

But Jacob said, **“I will not let you go unless you bless me.”**

**“What is your name?”** the man asked.

**“Jacob,”** he replied.

**“Your name will no longer be Jacob,”** he said. **“It will be Israel because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed.”**

Then Jacob asked him, **“Please tell me your name.”**

But he answered, **“Why do you ask my name?”** And he blessed him there.

Jacob then named the place Peniel, **“For I have seen God face to face,”** he said, **“yet my life has been spared.”** (Genesis 32:24-30 CSB)

Whether the man was a man, an angel (as Hosea 12:4 describes the incident) or God in this divine encounter, Jacob knew Him to be God.

Jacob was transformed into Israel. What does the name Israel mean? I will quote, **“Some scholars say Israel means “one who wrestles or struggles with God”. Others say, it is “One who strives or prevails with God”. And still others say, “Prince of God”.** (Quote from FIRM Fellowship of Israel Related Ministries –firmisrael.org)

“Prince of God” is what I had heard most of my Christian life. I think all three are true of Jacob/Israel. If Jacob/Israel typifies God’s people, then this would fit the authority Christ gives us, and the fact that overcomers will rule and reign with Him in the Kingdom.

Jesus said, **“...haven’t you read what was spoken to you by God: I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”** (From Matthew 22:32 CSB) So these three live on. Their stories don’t end, but what is relative to us in this world is recorded in our Bibles. The covenant comes through Abraham. I believe fulfillment is represented by Isaac being a type of Christ, and his bride represents the Bride of Christ—the Church, (who is drawn by the Holy Spirit) is also represented through Jacob/Israel. Their stories take up over half of Genesis, so a lot of significance remains for you to study on your own, and find out why God calls Himself the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.