

Luke 3:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which was the son of Jacob, which was the son of Isaac, which was the son of Abraham, which was the son of Thara, which was the son of Nachor,

Analysis

Which was the son of Jacob, which was the son of Isaac, which was the son of Abraham—The genealogy reaches the patriarchs: Abraham (Ἄβραάμ) received God's covenant promise that through his seed all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3; 22:18). Isaac ('Ισαάκ) was the child of promise, born miraculously to aged parents, prefiguring Jesus's virgin birth. Jacob ('Ιακώβ) was renamed Israel, father of the twelve tribes, embodying God's electing grace despite personal unworthiness.

These three patriarchs form the covenant foundation for Israel's entire history. The phrase "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Exodus 3:6) defines Yahweh's covenant character. Jesus explicitly invoked this patriarchal formula when teaching resurrection (Luke 20:37), establishing continuity between Old Testament promises and New Testament fulfillment. Luke's inclusion emphasizes Jesus as the ultimate Seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:16).

Historical Context

The patriarchal period (circa 2000-1800 BC) established foundational covenant promises: land, descendants, and blessing to nations. Abraham's faith-righteousness (Genesis 15:6) became Paul's paradigm for justification by faith (Romans 4). Isaac's sacrifice foreshadowed Jesus's substitutionary atonement. Jacob's wrestling with God pictured Israel's history of struggle and transformation.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's identity as the 'Seed of Abraham' fulfill God's promise that through Abraham all nations would be blessed?
2. What does Isaac's miraculous birth teach about God's pattern of bringing life from impossibility, culminating in Jesus's virgin birth?
3. How should the patriarchs' lives of faith despite personal failures encourage your confidence in God's covenantal faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ

Ἰακὼβ

G3588

Which was the son of Jacob

G2384

τοῦ

Ισαὰκ

G3588

which was the son of Isaac

G2464

τοῦ

Αβραὰμ

which was the son of Abraham

G11

τοῦ

Θάρα

G3588

which was the son of Thara

G2291

Ναχὼρ

which was the son of Nachor

G3493

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 25:26 (Parallel theme): And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

Genesis 21:3 (References Abraham): And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.

