

# 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

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**Which was the son of Jacob, which was the son of Isaac, which was the son of Abraham**—The genealogy reaches the patriarchs: Abraham (Ἀβραάμ) received God's covenant promise that through his seed all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3; 22:18). Isaac (Ἰσαάκ) was the child of promise, born miraculously to aged parents, prefiguring Jesus's virgin birth. Jacob (Ἰακώβ) 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

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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

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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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

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τοῦ G3588	Ἰακώβ Which was the son of Jacob G2384	τοῦ G3588	Ἰσαὰκ which was the son of Isaac G2464	τοῦ G3588
	Ἀβραὰμ which was the son of Abraham G11	τοῦ G3588	Θάρα which was the son of Thara G2291	τοῦ G3588
	Ναχὼρ which was the son of Nachor G3493			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

