

WONDERFUL THINGS, PLANNED LONG AGO

January 21, 2023

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38

Memory Verse

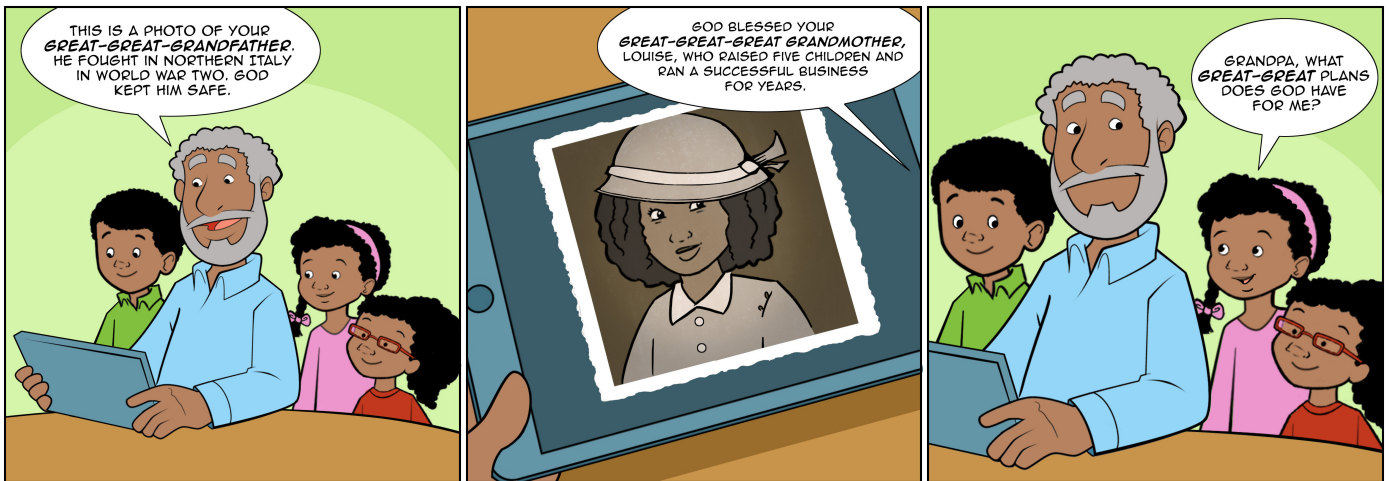
You, Lord, are my God! I will praise you for doing the wonderful things you had planned and promised since ancient times. (CEV)



Isaiah 25:1

CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron Vandenburg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Have you ever made a family tree for school or watched a show about people discovering their families' roots? Would you like to look back at the generations and see all the aunts, uncles, and grandparents that have come before you? In Matthew 1:1-17, Jesus' family tree includes familiar names like Abraham, Jacob, Ruth, and David. You may have read Bible stories about some of them from the Old Testament. Jesus' family tree shows us God's perfect faithfulness over hundreds and hundreds of years. God planned Jesus' arrival long before he was born. All the way back at the beginning, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, God promised a Messiah (Genesis 3:15), someone who would save us from our sins. That someone was Jesus.

When you read all of those Old Testament stories about Jesus' ancestors, you see just how God brought the Messiah to a world that needed him. God made a special promise to Abraham that his descendants would be God's people. He gave Jacob a name for his people, Israel. He led Jacob's descendants out of slavery from Egypt and gave them a country of their own. God brought Ruth into that country and made her King David's great-grandmother. God promised David that someone from his family would be King of Israel forever. That King is Jesus. God had planned all of these wonderful things long ago.

God planned for you in the same way. Just as he did with Abraham, Jacob, Ruth, David, and the other members of Jesus' family, God carefully oversaw *your* family tree and lovingly cared for each branch to bring you into this world. You are one of God's "**wonderful things.**" Before you were born, God saw you and knew everything about you ([Psalm 139:16](#)). And through Jesus, he made a way for you to live with him forever in his kingdom. Take a moment to think about that, and let it fill you with wonder and thankfulness to God.

Prayer

"You, Lord, are my God! I will praise you for doing the wonderful things you had planned and promised since ancient times"—including making me! In Jesus' name, Amen.

written by Christopher Hunt

<https://kidscorner.net/devotions/wonderful-things-planned-long-ago>

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