

I. Introduction – Why preach on a genealogy? 2 Tim. 3:16-4:2

II. Why is this genealogy important?

- A. Why are there so many genealogies in the Bible? Gen. 5,11 1 Chr. 1-9 Ruth 4:18-22**
1. Genealogies give identity to people and give them a connection with their past. 2:36 Acts 4:36 Ro. 1:11 Phil. 3:5
 2. Genealogies establish the rights of true descendants – especially priests and kings. Ezra 2:61-63 Neh. 7:63ff
 3. Genealogies are a record of God’s faithfulness to His promises. Gen. 3:15 12:1-3 22:18 28:14 49:10 2 Sam. 7:8-16 Isa. 11:1ff John 8:56 Ps. 89:3,29 Rev. 22:16
 - a. A deliverer has come through Eve’s offspring. 3:38 Gen. 3:15
 - b. All nations are blessed through Abraham’s seed. 3:34 Gen. 12:3 Gal. 3:16
 - c. A Son of David will reign forever as king. 1:32,69 3:31 18:28 2 Sam. 7:11-16
- B. How does the genealogy of Jesus fit into Luke’s gospel?**
1. Jesus has been declared the Divine Son of God. 1:35 3:22 4:3,41 9:28 22:7 Jo. 1:1
 2. Jesus is also the fully human Son of Man. 5:24 6:8 7:34 9:22,26,44,56,58 11:30 12:8,10,40 17:22,26,30 18:8,31 19:10 21:27,36 22:22,40,69 24:7
 3. The coming of Jesus is rooted in human history. 1:1-4
 4. Jesus, the representative man, is about to be tempted by the devil. 4:1ff Gen. 3:1-7
 5. He succeeds where the first Adam failed. Gen. 3:15 Rom. 5:12-21 1 Co. 15:22,45
 6. A new Adam brings a new beginning. Rom. 8:19-21
- C. How does Luke’s genealogy of Jesus compare with that of Matthew? Mt. 1:1-17**
1. Matthew’s genealogy begins with Abraham and emphasizes Jesus’ descent from David, emphasizing Jesus’ Jewish identity and His right to the throne. Mt. 1:1-2
 2. Luke’s genealogy ends with Adam which highlights Jesus’ true humanity and that He is the Savior of all people. Gen. 12:3 Luke 3:38 Acts 17:26-30 10:34ff
 3. Matthew begins with Jesus’ genealogy while Luke places his between His baptism and His temptation.
 4. There are differences in the names listed in the two genealogies. 3:31 Mt. 1:6-7
 - a. Matthew is tracing Jesus’ descent through Joseph, His legal (but not natural) father. Luke is probably tracing Jesus’ descent through Mary. 3:23
 - b. Other explanations have been offered to explain these differences. 1 Tim. 1:4

III. Genealogies remind us of the human need for redemption – preaching the commas.

- A. Each comma represents a generation which has passed off the scene – the universal reign of sin and death in the world. Heb. 9:27**
1. Death came into the world because of Adam’s sin. Gen. 2:17 3:19b Ro. 5:17 6:23
 2. Human life is frail and brief. Isa. 40:6 Js. 4:14 Ps. 90:10 Gen. 47:9
 3. Human life, apart from God, is vain. Ecc. 1:1-4 2:1-17 3:11 4:19-20 6:3
 4. We are all dying and will soon be gone (and forgotten).
- B. Biblical genealogies remind us of human sin. Rom. 3:10-18,23,26 Gen. 3:6 9:20ff 12:10ff 16:11ff 20:1ff 26:7ff 27:1ff 38:1ff Josh. 24:2 2 Sam. 11**
- C. God is faithful in spite of human unfaithfulness. 2 Tim. 2:13 Titus 3:5 Eph. 2:8-9**
- D. Jesus brings redemption by conquering sin and death. Gen. 3:15 Ecc. 3:14 1 Co. 15:22-26,50-57 Rom. 5:12ff 3:21-26 Jo. 10:10 11:25-26 Heb. 2:14-15 1 Jo. 3:8**

IV. What is the significance of Jesus's age when He began His public ministry? v. 23a

- A. Jesus' public ministry only takes up about a tenth of His life.**
- B. Thirty years of age was regarded the age of full adulthood.**
 - 1. Thirty was the age at which men in the Old Testament era took on great responsibility. Gen. 41:46 2 Sam. 5:4 Num. 4:3,35,39,43,47 1 Chron. 23:3**
 - 2. It is difficult for someone younger to be taken seriously. John 8:57 1 Tim. 4:12**
 - 3. Jesus began His public ministry at the perfect time. 4:16 Gal. 4:4**
- C. What did Jesus do for the early years of His life? 12:52,40 Mt. 13:55 Mark 6:3**
- D. Jesus fully experienced our humanity. Heb. 5:8 2:14-18 4:14-16**
- E. How does this apply to us?**
 - 1. "Elders" are to be men of maturity and experience. 1 Tim. 3:4-6 1 Pet. 5:5**
 - 2. Younger men (and women) should be patient.**
 - 3. What about 1 Timothy 4:12 – "Let no one look down on your youthfulness"?**
 - 4. The ordinariness of our lives has significance.**

V. Conclusion: Christ the Son of God became a son of Adam so that we sons of Adam might become sons of God.

Discussion questions

- 1. Why are the genealogies included in the Bible?**
- 2. What are some important truths we learn from the genealogies?**
- 3. Why do you think that Luke put this genealogy in this particular spot in his gospel?**
- 4. How does Luke's genealogy differ from that of Matthew? Explain the differences.**
- 5. How can the gospel be preached from a genealogy?**
- 6. Why do you believe that Jesus waited until He was about thirty years old to begin His public ministry?**
- 7. Are there principles we should derive from this about the age and maturity of our leaders?**
- 8. Where do you fit into Jesus' genealogy?**