

“Jesus, The Son of Man” *The Genealogy of Jesus* From Elder John Stoos *Based on Luke 3:21-38*

Dr. Luke’s Prologue for His Orderly Account

“Behold, I send My messenger and he will prepare the way before me” Malachi 3:1

Dedication to Theophilus *Luke 1:1-4*

Time Set: *“There was in the days of King Herod...” Luke 1:5*

John’s birth announced by Gabriel *Luke 1:5-25*

Jesus’ birth announced by Gabriel *Luke 1:26-56*

John is born *Luke 1:57-79*

Jesus is born *Luke 2:1-7*

John is circumcised *Luke 1:59-66*

Jesus is circumcised *Luke 2:21*

John grows and is strong in spirit *Luke 1:80*

Jesus grows in wisdom and strength *Luke 2:39-51*

-- Angels Proclaim Jesus & His Kingdom *Luke 2:8-20*

-- Saints testify that God is faithful

*[Elizabeth 1:39-45- Mary 1:46-56 –Zacharias 1:67-79 –
Shepherds2:15-20-Simeon 2:25-35-Anna 2:36-38]*

Jesus presented at Temple

as Son of God and Son of Man *Luke 2:22-38*

Time Set: *“Now in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...” Luke 3:1, 2*

John told to prepare the way: *Luke 3:3-6*

Jesus begins His ministry: *Luke 3:23*

John baptizes the people *Luke 3:7-20*

Jesus is Baptized by John *Luke 3:21*

John is arrested by Herod *Luke 3:18-20*

Jesus is tempted by Satan *Luke 4:1-13*

-- John proclaims Jesus and His Kingdom *Luke 3:7-20*

-- The Father testifies of His Beloved Son *Luke 3:21, 22*

Jesus presented in the genealogy

as the Son of God and Son of Man *Luke 3:23-38*

Jesus Begin His Ministry *Luke 3:23 & 4:14*

Scripture Reading:

Luke 3: “**21** When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. **22** And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."
23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli, **24** the son of Matthat, ^{F20} the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph, **25** the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, **26** the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah, **27** the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, **28** the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er, **29** the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, **30** the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim, **31** the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David, **32** the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, **33** the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, **34** the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, **35** the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, **36** the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, **37** the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, **38** the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”

Genesis 3:14 “**So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."**

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As we continue our series of sermons on the Gospel of Luke, we begin the transition from Luke’s prologue to his “orderly account” to the beginning of the ministry of Jesus.

Next week we will see Satan attack both John & Jesus in his attempt to disrupt God’s plan of salvation.

This week we come to the genealogy given at the end of Chapter 3.

The simple question we should ask is “Why does Luke list all these names!?”

Another important and more complicated question is why Luke’s genealogy is different than that given by Matthew in his Gospel.

As in past weeks, we will see Jesus presented as the Son of God and Son of Man: Jesus who has, as the Angel proclaimed, come to save His people from their sins.

We will see His ministry grounded in history and relevant for our lives

In these genealogies, we see Jesus again identified with His people in His humanity: As we saw with His circumcision and His baptism!

As we see God’s faithfulness it shows us the fulfillment of what Peter told the convicted Saints after his sermon at Pentecost: “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

First let me deal briefly with the differences in the genealogies:

- **Mathew goes forward from Abraham**
- **Luke moves back all the way to Adam**
 - ✓ **Luke gives all the details**
 - ✓ **Mathew's is a summary broken down into three "fourteens"**
- **Mathews traces the line through Solomon**
- **Luke traces the line through Nathan**
 - ✓ **Mathew is Kingly**
 - ✓ **Luke shows humanity**
- **One is the promise to Abraham**
- **One is the promise to Adam**

Clearly, in BOTH cases:

-- God is faithful down through all of history

How to handle the discrepancies:

- **Realize that God has providentially protected His Word, even if we don't fully understand all the details that are given!**

For example: Explaining the lineage that Luke uses: [Heli v. Jacob]

Here are three plausible explanations for having two different names:

- **Heli is Mary's father**
- **Heli is Joseph's step-father**
- **Heli is the father of Joseph's mother**

We are simply not told!

Minor details are often the focus of attacks on the Bible from those who refuse to believe: BUT they cannot have their cake and eat it as well.

- **Bible is full of mistakes they cry!**
- **Bible changed by men they say!**

A man-made book WOULD have major problems: Real tough to get two authors to agree on a single major subject in their own time!

The Bible is 66 books written by some 40 authors over 1,600 years, covering all the major issues of life!

BUT a man-made book would certainly fix the simple “mistakes”

We can see plausible answers here & now and will know for certain in heaven!

So what do we see with Luke’s genealogy?

Jesus as Son of God & Son of Man:

-- “as was supposed the son of Joseph”

-- “Adam, the Son of God”

Grounded in real history:

Luke includes detailed time stamp [refer to chart]

Jesus is identified with His People: Genealogies are prominent throughout the Old Testament

We read this morning the first promise of the Gospel: The seed of the woman coming to crush the head of Satan!

Think of this earliest promise of the Gospel in the same way as the promise that Peter proclaims only from Adam's standpoint:

- For you, Adam, a Savior will come
- For your seed, Adam, the Savior will come: A complete genealogy from Adam to Christ!
- For those afar off the Savior will come: We see this in Mathew's account where Rahab and Ruth are both into the line of promise!

What does this mean for us today?

We have a REAL Savior: We can claim the promise just as Adam did!

- **Jesus the Son of God is a powerful Savior:**

John 10:17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

- **Here in the genealogy, Jesus relates to us as the Son of Man: We take comfort in His humanity!**

Hebrews 2: "17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."

- **In chapter four of Hebrews the Spirit stresses BOTH the Divinity of Jesus AND His humanity:**

Hebrews 4:14 "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

-- This is what we do each week through Covenant Renewal Worship!

A real Savior for our REAL life

- **Luke smashes the “upper & lower story” concept of modern thought**
- **Real people in this genealogy in real history**

Some commentators have argued these are insignificant people: BUT the Holy Spirit includes their names to show that God remembers who they are! There will be countless stories of God’s grace when we meet them in heaven! As Francis Schaeffer said, “With God there are NO little people.”

All of this should remind us to take better note of our histories!

-- Family History – *pictures / stories*

-- Church History – *local & broader*

-- National History

It should also help us to focus on the future: Something sorely neglected by the American church today:

We have all sorts of programs and evangelistic outreaches but lack a proper understanding of the Biblical vision of God’s faithfulness

By way of application, think about it this way: God has blessed our small church with 47 Covenant children.

Let’s assume we begin to be faithful with just their generation:

[Using Peter’s promise as our guide!]

-- They are faithful to the Covenant

-- They marry in the Lord [the promise is unto YOU]

-- They have just small quivers of 5 [and unto your Children]

-- Each family impacts just ONE outside couple in their lifetime starting a new covenant family line [and unto those afar off]

- **Is this simple list too tough???**
- **Does it require massive programs, million of dollars or lots of doctorate degrees?**

IF we are simply faithful in these simple areas, the result could be some very exciting reformed math!

-- By the 3rd generation you would have 15,228 covenant members: Larger than any Sacramento mega-church!

-- By the 5th generation you would have over 548,000 covenant members: Over 100,000 more than live in the City of Sacramento today

-- By the 8th generation you would have over 125 million covenant members, almost four times the current population of California.

-- And by the 10th generation, you would have over 4.5 BILLION Covenant Members!

If we figure the normal generation of 35 years, this would take less time than has elapsed since the signing of the Mayflower Compact

- **Such is the power of Covenant faithfulness!**
- **Such could be the result of simple obedience!**
- **Such was probably the case in the Church's 1st Millennium**

[Why we need to know our church history better!]

- **Could be what the Spirit is doing in this millennium in the Southern Hemisphere!**

THE BOTTOM-LINE:

God remembers His people and His promise: “To you, to your children and to all those who are far off!”

As we claim this promise, not only will we see the Kingdom advance, but we will know comfort and blessing that Paul highlights in Romans 8:

[your homework is to study the whole chapter, but allow me to close with a few of these powerful verses from God's Word this morning]

Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together..."

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

"29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

"31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"

We see in the Gospel genealogies God's faithfulness from Adam down to the coming of His Son, the seed of the woman, the Son of God, coming as the Son of Man to save His people from their sins!

Let us live and serve Him in that confidence this week!