



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

The Witness of God's Word: Jesus' Genealogy

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Luke 3:23-38 *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, 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 Jesus, 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 Arni, 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 Mahalel, the son of Cainan, 38) the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. (NKJV)*

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. 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." GENESIS 3:14-15

Is this the only place we are given, when Jesus begins His ministry? Why does it say "(as was supposed)"? Who does the Talmud say is the daughter of Heli? How many generations is it from God, to God in human flesh? What number is the key to this genealogy? Does it falsify the hypothesis of evolution?

FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS:

- NOVEMBER 2: THE 23RD ANNUAL CAPITOL COOKOUT AND PRAYER WALK

There were few things more important to the people of Israel than their lineage. MacArthur lists numerous ways their lineage affected the Jews. Initially their lineage determined where and how much land they owned, especially prior to the deportation and return from Babylon (Numbers 26:53-55). It was their right of property and inheritance, including all that came with it (buildings, animals, water sources, etc.). Their lineage also designated the blessing of kinsman redemption. If they became so poor that they had to sell their property to survive, one of the near relatives were to purchase it, and sometimes it involved marrying a widow (Lev. 25:25-28, Ruth 4:1-6). Ancestry also determined whether one could serve as a priest (Ezra 2:61-62). Under the Roman rule, lineage determined your place of registration for taxation, thus Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem for the census. Most importantly, if anyone were to claim to be a king or especially the Messiah, it would be absolutely necessary to be able to prove it with the genealogical records. And it is interesting that this was never proposed as an objection to Jesus Christ's claim to be the Messiah, even by His greatest enemies. Maybe the greatest beauty of this lineage is the fulfillment of many promises made by God even 4000 years prior, with such fulfillments never being duplicated anywhere else in all history.

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 9:30 AM – FREDERICKSBURG – PARADISE DINER – 260 WARRENTON RD & NOON – FAIRFAX – DENNY'S, 10473 FAIRFAX BLVD.

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – RICHMOND – SHONEY'S, HULL & COURTHOUSE

Virginia

The Witness of God's Word: Jesus' Genealogy

THUS SAYS THE LORD: "WRITE THIS MAN DOWN AS CHILDLESS, A MAN WHO SHALL NOT PROSPER IN HIS DAYS; FOR NONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS SHALL PROSPER, SITTING ON THE THRONE OF DAVID, AND RULING ANY MORE IN JUDAH." JEREMIAH 22:30

I. THE SUPPOSITION

LUKE 3:23

Luke the physician provides Governor Theophilus with the timing in the life of Jesus Christ when he began His ministry, "*about thirty years of age.*" Thirty was considered to be the ideal age. It was the age when priests began their duties and rabbis began their teaching. It is also the age at which David assumed the throne and Ezekiel and John the Baptist began their ministries. Most accurately, according to the original, "*Himself, Jesus was beginning about thirty years, being a son (as was supposed of Joseph), of Heli.*" The only name without a definite article in the entire genealogy is "*Joseph,*" thus proving that Luke did not consider Joseph to be the father of Jesus as he had already explained with the virgin birth in the previous two chapters. In Jewish genealogies, it was considered acceptable to also present a grandson as a son, particularly in the case of an adoptive father. What is particularly applicable is the fact that the Talmud, written by the Jewish Rabbis, relates clearly from that time, "Miriam (Mary) was the daughter of Heli." Thus by the Bible & history, Jesus was the grandson of Heli.

"ALSO THE LORD TELLS YOU THAT HE WILL MAKE YOU A HOUSE. WHEN YOUR DAYS ARE FULFILLED AND YOU REST WITH YOUR FATHERS, I WILL SET UP YOUR SEED AFTER YOU, WHO WILL COME FROM YOUR BODY, AND I WILL ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM. HE SHALL BUILD A HOUSE FOR MY NAME, AND I WILL ESTABLISH THE THRONE OF HIS KINGDOM FOREVER. I WILL BE HIS FATHER, AND HE SHALL BE MY SON." 2 SAMUEL 7:11-14

II. THE SEED

LUKE 3:24-31

Nothing was more clear to the Jewish mind than the fact that their Messiah would have to be in the lineage of David, their greatest king, who expanded the territory of Israel almost to its limits, and prepared the materials for the construction of the Temple, for his son, Solomon. Many years later, after the deportation of Daniel by Nebuchadnezzar, the leaders and kings became known for their "*covetousness, for shedding innocent blood, and practicing oppression and violence*" (Jer. 22:17). However, the kings of Judah had become so corrupt and tyrannical that King Jeconiah (also Coniah) began to actively so persecute Jeremiah that God placed a curse upon him (above-Jer. 22:30). Yet he is found to be in the kingly line of Joseph as given in Matthew 1:11-12. However, in actuality, the real lineage of Jesus Christ is only through Mary, as given here, and it follows the lineage of Nathan, the son of David, rather than Solomon, thus avoiding the curse of Jeconiah, and proving He is the son of David.

"BY MYSELF I HAVE SWORN, SAYS THE LORD, BECAUSE YOU HAVE DONE THIS THING, AND HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON—BLESSING I WILL BLESS YOU, AND MULTIPLYING I WILL MULTIPLY YOUR DESCENDANTS AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN AND AS THE SAND WHICH IS ON THE SEASHORE; AND YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL POSSESS THE GATE OF THEIR ENEMIES. IN YOUR SEED ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED, BECAUSE YOU HAVE OBEYED MY VOICE." GENESIS 22:16-18

III. THE SACRIFICE

LUKE 3:32-38

Notice that when the promise of the coming Messiah was first given to a person—Abraham, he has been willing, in obedience to God, to sacrifice his only son, as God would later sacrifice His Son for our sin. Jesus (#77), is the only person in history of whom we have the lineage of both His adoptive father, (the legal, kingly line), and His mother—the actual line, all the way back to Adam!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) When have you begun a relationship with God by receiving His Son as your Lord and Savior?
- 2) Do you trust the Word of God and His promises that have stood the test of time since the world began?
- 3) How many more witnesses would be necessary to convince you of Jesus the Messiah, to become obedient to Him?