CAPITOL COMMISSION™

The Genealogy of Christ
FEBRUARY 27, 2013

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so the he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke communicates eyewitness accounts and carefully researches all that has been taught and handed down about Jesus (1:1-4). Additionally in the first 3 chapters, Luke sets a firm foundation that preludes the ministry of Christ through documentation and carefully shares key secular, cultural, and spiritual events that provide historical, prophetic, and faith perspective.

"When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli, ……. the son of Adam, the son of God." (Luke 3:23a-38b NASB)

Jesus begins His ministry. The baptism of Jesus was the prelude to Jesus' ministry (3:21-22). Luke shares that Jesus was about thirty years of age when Jesus' baptism and public ministry began. As was the Jewish custom, at 12 years old Jesus celebrated the Passover (2:42) and so at thirty years of age, the customary age at which a man entered into the office of priest (Nu 4:3), king (David - 2Sa 5:4) or prophet (Ez 1:1), Jesus began His public ministry.

Two genealogies of Jesus. One is found in the Gospel of Luke (3:23-38) and the other is found in the Gospel of Matthew (Mt 1:1-17). Genealogies or ancestries were important in the Jewish culture for several reasons including: inheritance or determining claim to money, land and property; determining role or occupation in life; and provided legal rule of succession in a government or family. Luke shares the genealogy of Jesus from Mary's lineage and Matthew shares from Joseph's lineage. While Luke had established the fact that Jesus was virgin born (1:34, 35), he further make it clear that Joseph was not Jesus' true father when he states; "*as was supposed, the son of Joseph," (v 23*).

Eli to Adam. Matthew writes to a Jewish audience, sharing the genealogy of Jesus starting with Abraham (royal lineage of Abraham) and working down through King David (House of David) and concluding with Joseph the husband of Mary. Matthew shows that Jesus is the legal lineage of Abraham and David. Luke shares the genealogy of Jesus starting with Mary's father, Eli, and works up through King David (House of David) through Abraham (royal lineage of Abraham) and continues up through Adam, the son of God. The legal title to the throne of David is passed through Joseph and blood title to the throne of David came through Mary.

Jesus is the Son of Man and the Son of God. Luke records that not only is Jesus the Son of Man, as traced back through Adam, but also that He is the Son of God. While providing a genealogy of Jesus as the Son of Man and the Son of God, Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. From credible witnesses including: Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon, Anna, John the Baptist and the Ultimate Witness, God the Father. God the Father declaring from Heaven, *"You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." (3:22).* Again, Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so the he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah.

For Your Consideration:

- Luke took the genealogy back to Adam and not just to Abraham and showed that through Jesus God offers salvation to all men. (Jn 3:16)
- What is your legal genealogy? What is your faith genealogy?
- Have you been adopted into God's family through the saving grace found in Jesus, the Son of Man and the Son of God?

BIBLE STUDIES

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