

THE REALLY GOOD LIFE

(Life of Christ Series)
Studies in Luke's Gospel

The Family Tree

They say the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree. Now, I don't know who 'they' are but the saying 'they' came up with does contain some truth to think about. Generally speaking, if you pick up from the ground a piece of fruit or a nut or even a leaf, you can be pretty sure of the kind of tree it's from and what to expect of the seeds inside, if planted. When this hypothesis is applied to human beings it carries a similar presumption – people are usually the 'fruit' of a 'family tree' that has a history of producing such offspring and that the person you see will most likely produce more of the same in the future. For most of us, we are typically unclear about our genealogy and what impact our history has upon us presently and upon our progeny in the future. When possible it's good to at least know two or three generations back for a better understanding of who we are, what we inherited and what we're probably going to be like. Almost always, unless something miraculous from the hand of God intervenes, we will continue pretty much like the family tree from which we came.

As God the Son, prior to His incarnation, Jesus had no human family tree. As the eternal Son of God, He was and is eternal, without any original beginning (*Isaiah 9:6, John 8:58, Romans 9:5, Colossians 1:16-20, etc., etc.*). But when God the Son took on flesh (*John 1:14, 1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 2:14*), He inherited a rotten family tree that was totally infested with sin from Adam and was producing worse and worse branches of rebellion throughout the ages. In the genealogies of Jesus found in Matthew 1 and Luke 3, generations of sinful humans are traced back through history. Matthew's Jewish branch of humanity goes back to Abraham, while Luke's universal (Jew and non-Jew) branch of humans goes all the way back to Adam himself. Matthew's branch of the family tree proves that Jesus was/is the legal heir of King David and the descendant of Abraham, first patriarch of Israel. Luke's longer branch of humanity's family tree traces Jesus' descendants back to David (though through a different son of David), on to Abraham and eventually back to Adam. There are similarities and differences in the genealogies usually attributed to the fact that Matthew's family tree goes back through Joseph's family, while Luke's tree of Jesus' ancestors probably goes back through Mary's lineage. Nevertheless, together, these two genealogies show the connection to the entire human race that God the Son took upon Himself when He added the human Person of Jesus to His being. Thus, Jesus is curiously similar to man, but infinitely different than anyone else in 'the family tree' from which He came. His kinship with sinful humanity and His Oneness with the Triune God, suits Him to be the Savior of all who come to God through faith in Him and His sacrificial cross-work for the human race.

There is another family tree since Jesus that is listed only as the manifest of heaven – the Book of Life. This family tree lists all who have by grace been grafted into the tree of salvation provided for all repentant sinners at the cross of Christ (*Romans 11:16-24*). Unless God has miraculously grafted you into His family tree of grace, you will die apart from Him and be eternally disconnected from the family of God. Or, if you by faith with a repentant heart, have your life grafted into the Lord Jesus Christ, your sinful past will be cut away by grace and your future will be spliced together with the Lord Jesus forever.

Tested, Proven & Ready To Serve

(Preparing For Ministry By Knowing Who You Are In Christ)

The Family Tree of Jesus - Luke 3:23-4:2

About Your 'Roots'

(Descendants and Destiny)

The Savior's Family Tree

(Comparing Matthew's & Luke's Genealogies)

"Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli..." **3:23**

Matthew's genealogy traces the ancestry of Jesus through Joseph's lineage to Abraham through David. *(This is important because Matthew's gospel proves Jesus' Jewish roots and throne rights – **Matthew 1:1-16**)*

Luke's genealogy traces Jesus' ancestry through Mary's lineage to Abraham, David and Adam. *(This is important because Luke's gospel proves that Jesus' is the God-Man Savior for all of humanity.)*

- Mary is not mentioned, but it's logical to believe this is the lineage of Jesus through her ancestral line. *(Note: that no women's names are in Luke's genealogy, so the absence of her name is to be expected)*
- If the above is true, '**Heli**' (**Lk. 3:23**) would be Mary's father, not Joseph's (whose name is 'Jacob' according to **Matthew 1:16**). It isn't unusual for a son-in-law to be called 'son' through marriage, by his 'father-in-law'. This also explains the total difference of names between Jesus and David (Matthew records Joseph's family names and Luke records Mary's family names). However, back from David to Abraham the names are identical because Mary's and Joseph's lineage both connect at David.
- The Luke genealogy through Mary shows God's brilliance in by-passing the problem of the break in throne rights in Matthew's lineage. The name 'Jeconiah' (**Matthew 1:12**) is of a king so wicked that God cut off all lineage to the throne of David through him (**Jeremiah 22:28-30**). To keep His prophetic word, God by-passed Jeconiah (in Joseph's lineage) by connecting Jesus through Mary's lineage to the throne of David via David's son, Nathan, instead of Solomon (**Luke 3:31**). Thus, Jesus is doubly connected to the throne of David (legally through Solomon of Joseph and spiritually through Nathan on Mary's side of the family tree).
- 30 years of age = the age at which a man began public ministry as a prophet (**Ezekiel 1:1**), priest (**Numbers 4:3, 35, 39, 43, 47**) or ruler /king (**Genesis 41:46, 2 Samuel 5:4**).

The Adams Family Tree *(Surveying the Branches of the Human Race)*

- “...the son of... (40 names of mostly unknown people between David and Jesus)...” **(3:24-31)**
(‘limbs’ on Mary’s side of Jesus’ lineage)
- “...David, the son of ... (12 names of faithful & patriarchs between David and Abraham...” **(3:31-34)**
(the ‘faithful Jewish branch’ on both Mary’s & Joseph’s sides of Jesus’ family tree)
- “...Abraham, the son of... (10 names of faithful people between Abraham and Noah...” **(3:34-36)**
(the faithful ‘post-flood’ descendants of Noah)
- “...Noah, the son of ... (8 names of faithful men between Noah and Adam)...the son of God.” **(3:36-38)**
(the faithful ‘pre-flood’ descendants of Adam)

The Last Adams' Tree of Life *(The tree (cross) upon which Jesus died = 1st Adam's curse lifted; Last Adam's grace imparted)* **1 Corinthians 15:22 & 45**

Knowing who you are in Christ, your purpose in this life, and God's calling upon you establishes the foundation of ministry for your earthly life. Securing your foundation in Christ empowers you for victory in the tests and tribulations that come when Jesus is Lord. Then awesome ministry can be done by God's Spirit through you in the world.

Jesus' Solitary Temptation and Public Ministry *(Overview of Luke Chapter 4)*