

Christmas, from Creation to Bethlehem Part 2: Lineages

Greetings in the name of our Lord. I'm glad you could join me once again today for "It's a Good Life." We've been looking at the subject matter of "Christmas, from Creation to Bethlehem." We saw in a preceding study how that Jesus was before Bethlehem. Jesus was before the foundation of the world, and God wants us to know that. He wants us to know that Jesus is His Son and that Jesus is God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, all co-equal.

Now, I don't understand. My little mind cannot comprehend how that there can be three in one, but I know the Bible teaches that. The Bible teaches me that there is one God existing three in One: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We understand that, at Christmastime, the time of year that we celebrate the birth of Christ on this earth that we are understanding that Jesus Christ came into the world to seek and to save those who are lost. Jesus Christ had to be born in the flesh in order to take away the sins of the world. The Bible says, *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned* (Romans 5:12). Just as death came by one Man, so life came by one Man and that is Jesus Christ, Jesus, the Son of God.

Today we want to look at the lineage of Jesus, the lines of descent. In Revelation chapter 1, verses 7 and 8, the Bible says: *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. Verse 8 says, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.* This is saying that Jesus was before the beginning. This

says that He was on this earth and that He is right now God and that He is coming again. Revelation chapter 1, verse 11, the first part of that verse – *Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last....* The genealogy of Jesus Christ is needed to show that redemption was no afterthought but designed from the first.

Abraham and David in Matthew's Gospel are singled out to prove the fulfillment in Christ of the promises made to Abraham 2,000 years previously and to David 1,000 years previously. In John 1, verse 14, it tells us that *the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us....* John 1:1 tells us who the Word is. John 1:14 continues by saying, *[A]nd we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father....* Now, what was beheld or seen was manifested on the Mount of Transfiguration. John saw it along with others. In Matthew chapter 17, verses 1 and 2, it says, *After six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.* Now, we see that they beheld His glory on this Mount of Transfiguration.

In John chapter 1 and verse 14, it says, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.* John was testifying here of the only begotten Son of God. He was testifying that Jesus is God. He beheld His glory.

Now, the book of Matthew talks about the lineage of Christ. Matthew wrote to the Jews to present Jesus as King of the Jews. Christ's kinship to David, the king of Israel, is mentioned before that

of Abraham, the father of Israel. Matthew chapter 1 and verse 1 talks about this. And then we see that Matthew's genealogy emphasized Jesus' claim to the throne of David. Matthew appropriately, as writing for Jews, gives Christ's legal descent. In other words, He was entitled to be the King, the Savior.

Matthew's genealogy also traces the ancestors of Joseph, the legal father of Jesus. Now, he was not the actual birth father, or the one who was His actual father. He was, we might say, the adoptive earthly father of Jesus, but Joseph was not the one who had given life to Jesus. The Holy Spirit, we are told, overshadowed Mary and she conceived. Jesus was the incarnate Son of God. He was incarnated. He was placed within the womb of that virgin.

Now, we keep reading in the book of Matthew and we see many things going on here. Matthew divides the genealogy of Jesus into three groups of 14 generations separated by important historic points. We see that in Matthew chapter 1 and verse 17. It says, *So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.*

We see that, as we read this, there is a lot of confusion sometimes because we see so many names listed with the genealogy of Jesus Christ. But we need to keep this in mind. God would not have placed those names there had they not been important. God would not have caused these separations that we read of or mentioned these separations, these time periods in Matthew chapter 1, verse 17, if they were not important. We need to read the Word of God for the Word of God to let God speak to our heart. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly, the Bible says (Colossians 3:16). Let the Word of God go into you. Study the Word of God. Keep the Word of

God, and the Word of God will never let you down. The book of Matthew talks about the lineage of Christ. We see that this gives the lineage from Joseph from Jesus for fourteen generations.

And then, the book of Luke, the lineage of Christ in reverse order. This is not a contradiction from the book of Matthew. Luke traces the genealogy of Jesus all the way back to Adam and God. We see this in Luke chapter 3, verses 23 through 38. And Luke holds that Jesus serves all people, Jew and Gentile alike. Remember, Matthew's account is speaking to the Jew. The Jewish people looked for a king, a literal king who would sit at His kingdom right then. They missed the point. Jesus had to go to the cross before His kingdom could be set up. They missed the cross. Thank God for the Jewish people because they are God's people. They are His chosen people. Thank God for them, but they missed Jesus at that time. They did not accept Him as the Savior. They looked for a king, but they refused to receive Him as the Savior.

Luke presents the genealogy in multiples of seven. Luke's genealogy totals 77 names. Now, there are 21 names from Joseph back to the exile, 21 names from the exile back to David, 14 generations from David back to Abraham, and 21 generations from Abraham back to Adam. Once again, this may not seem important, but God placed this here for us to understand how that He confused the devil. You say, "Well, I don't understand all of this." Well, you know, the devil didn't understand it either. That's the reason Jesus came and lived a sinlessly perfect life. He died on the cross of Calvary. The devil wanted to kill Him, but he couldn't because God had arranged to confuse the devil so much about Jesus Christ that he didn't know whether he was coming or going. Don't feel so bad about it if you don't understand everything, because neither did the devil. I often think how dumb the devil was that...I wouldn't want to stand up and have a confrontation with the devil personally, but when

we compare him to God the Father, how that he is so inferior to God the Father, how that God the Father and Jesus could confuse the devil so much that he missed the birth of Christ.

And Luke writing for the Gentiles gives Christ's natural descent. And we read about this in Luke chapter 3, verses 23 through 38. The genealogy in Luke culminates by showing Jesus was the Son of Adam, the Son of God, Luke chapter 3 verse 38. Luke emphasizes the humanity of Jesus. He says, He's the son of Adam, Luke 3:38. Luke emphasizes the deity of Jesus, the Son of God, Luke 3:38. Luke traces the genealogy of Mary, and Jesus had no right to David's throne through Mary for she was not in the kingly line of descent through Solomon. So we see that through Joseph by his adoptive power given to him by the government, he was actually the adoptive father of Jesus. This gave Jesus the right to be the king, the literal king, and through Mary this gave him the right to be our Savior.

We can look and we can keep comparing, but the thing that I would like for you to see today is that Jesus loves you. He came into this world to seek and to save those who were lost. If you've never trusted Him as your Savior, you need to turn to Him right now. You need to say, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. I want to go to Heaven, Lord. Please save me so that I can be with You." If you'll pray a prayer like that and mean it in your heart, the Bible says that God will save you because whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

If you are a Christian and you've gotten away from God...I didn't say that He left you. I didn't say you were lost. I said you've gotten away from God. Please get back to Him. Ask His forgiveness as a Christian so that you can live for Him and serve Him. He's your Savior and He wants to be proud of you as His child.

It's been good being with you today, and let me remind you to write to me today, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 37431. If you write me, I'll send you charts showing you, lining out the genealogy of Jesus Christ, both through Matthew and through Luke, and this can be a little more help to you in understanding the Word of God. You can also look to our website, www.LRWM.org.

Until this next time, I'll be praying for you, and keep looking up because our redemption draweth nigh. May the Lord bless you richly in my prayer.