

## A LOOK AT JESUS' FAMILY TREE

(Matthew 1:1-17 & Luke 3:23-37)

Most of us don't know very much about our ancestors, nor do we give it much thought. There is a good chance that many of our forefathers were less than sterling. The truth is, we probably don't want to know our...

However, it is far different if you claim to be king. Especially if you are the "King of kings." Your family tree is extremely important. You must be able to trace your lineage and demonstrate that you are the legitimate One.

We celebrate Christmas as the time when Jesus, the promised King, was born in Bethlehem. His family tree is of up most importance, for God had foretold the details of it years earlier. Notice the two lineages given to us

### THREE GREAT ENCOURAGEMENTS AS WE EXAMINE JESUS' LINEAGE

Matthew gives Joseph's family showing His royalty, where as Luke provides Mary's showing the Davidic bloodline.

#### I. Our God Is A God Of Details...See His Hand In The Smallest Of Things.

The closer you look at what God does the more amazed you will be!!! In creation, Scripture, in life...

- A. Two genealogies are necessary for Jesus to claim His rightful place to the throne.
  1. Matthew, who is writing to the Jews showing that Jesus is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, begins with His genealogy, being of chief importance to Jews.
    - a. Matthew connects Abraham, who is the father of the Jews, and David who was promised a "Son" who would reign forever, with this Jesus.
    - b. Matthew traces Jesus' lineage through Solomon. (v.6)
  2. Dr. Luke gives Mary's lineage.
    - a. His is more dramatic as he goes backward from Mary to David including Noah and ends with Adam.
    - b. Luke writes his Gospel for the world tracing Jesus' line all the way back to Adam. For Jesus is "the second Adam," and "the seed of the woman."
    - c. Luke traces Jesus' bloodline through David's son Nathan. (v.3:31)
- B. The two genealogies solved the great problem of the curse on Jeconiah. (Matthew 1:11 and Jeremiah 22:30) "the Lord says...none of his offspring will sit on the throne of David..."

#### II. Our God Does The Impossible...As Jesus Is Born Of Mary, The Virgin.

What is impossible for us, is possible with almighty God who created everything from nothing!

- A. Matthew tells us in Jesus' family tree that Jesus was born only of Mary. (v. 1:16)
  - 1. To do this he uses the female relative pronoun, "of whom." Jesus was born, not as the offspring of a human father and mother. He was born of woman only.
  - 2. A few verses later Matthew will give more details. (1:18) "found with child..."
- B. It is natural to think that Luke, being the beloved physician, would give more details about this supernatural event, and he does. (3:23)
  - 1. Luke tells of Mary's bewilderment at the thought of being pregnant since she was a virgin. (1:34) She asks, "How can this be?"  
Gabriel answers her..."the Holy Spirit will..." It was supernatural. A miracle!
  - 2. Luke tells that Jesus was the son, "so it was thought, of Joseph." (3:23)

### III. Our God Is A God Of Grace...As Seen In The Women Who Were In His Family.

In a very unusual manner, Matthew records 4 women in addition to Mary.

- A. Tamar seduced Judah, her father-in-law, and bore twins through this incestuous sin.  
Matthew 1:3 gives the names of the twins..."Perez and Zerah."  
Yet, Perez becomes part of the line of Jesus.
- B. Rahab the harlot of Joshua's day is included in the family tree of Jesus. (1:5, Joshua 2:1)  
She was a professional woman "of the streets," in pagan Jericho.
- C. Ruth is the foreigner, even worse, she is from Moab and was excluded from Israel.  
Yet, she is brought in through Boaz, her kinsman redeemer. (1:5, Ruth 1:4)  
The Moabites were the offspring of incest between Lot and his daughter. (Gen. 19:36-37)
- D. Bathsheba is the adulteress who fornicated with King David. (1:6, 2 Samuel 11:2-5)  
She, through David, gave birth to both Solomon and Nathan, who are the fork in the branch of Jesus' family tree.

### LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:

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