

Luke 3:23-38

“Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”

Luke 3:23-38 ESV

This passage can be described as “Biblical flyover country” - seemingly not very exciting but vitally important if we are willing to take the time to explore. It is filled with hard names to pronounce, but names that point to prophecy and God keeping His promises, using ordinary people.

In the book of Luke, the family tree of Jesus shows up in chapter 3.

In the book of Matthew, the genealogy of Jesus starts with Abraham and moves forward and does not list all the names but traces the royal line of Jesus.

Luke works his way backwards all the way to Adam - traces back to the beginning - shows a more traditional family tree rather than the royal line including some names that most of us have never heard of in our study of Scripture.

- There are some scholars who think it is the family tree of Mary rather than Joseph. An explanation for that would include that adoption is allowed and mentioned in Deuteronomy 25 where if a father had no sons, they could adopt a boy to carry on the family name.

It is possible that Luke inserts this genealogy here rather than the beginning to whet the appetite of the reader. Some scholars also believe that Luke may have started with writing the genealogy and then decided sharing a story about John the Baptist and Jesus would be a better start to his book. So he drops the genealogy in later rather than beginning with the “begats”.

v. 23 - Jesus, son of supposedly Joseph, Son of Heli (Mary’s dad) Luke’s nod to God being Jesus’ dad. Luke is acknowledging that Jesus did not have a biological, earthly father.

Son of David v. 24-31 - the prophecy that Jesus would come through the line of David is traced back pointing to the fulfillment of prophecy.

Son of the Jews v. 32-34

The descendants of Abraham- God is faithful to His promises. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations.

Son of man, Son of God v. 35-38

Luke refers to Adam as the son of God. - Adam has no biological parents and God created him out of the dust.

This genealogy proves to Jews and Gentiles that Jesus is not only the prophesied messiah of Israel, but the son of man and the son of God. He is both 100% divine and 100% human.
Jesus came to save all, not just the Jews.

So What?

God uses the family of God to save the family of God.

- We all have twisted family trees.

As a believer, you are a comma and not a period in the lineage of God's family. What this means that the truth of the gospel is not to stop with you once you have heard it, but God has placed you in a spiritual family tree for that tree to continue to grow.

Ask rhetorically, Do you have spiritual children and grandchildren in your family tree?

Ask, Have you put a period where God has only placed a comma? What is keeping you from turning your period into a comma?

Sharing our faith produces opportunities for spiritual children to be born/adopted.

How does this statement resonate with you?

Not sharing the gospel out of fear of rejection or pride is choosing to be disobedient.

How are you punctuating your spiritual life?

Period, ellipsis, comma.

Allow participants to share how they might become more faithful to share the gospel with others.

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together.