

FAMILY OF FAITH

The lineage of Jesus Christ in Luke 3 complements the listing in Matthew 1, with some minor differences that actually add to the authenticity of the Scriptural record. Someone falsifying Christ would not allow any discrepancies, which are actually quite normal for a genealogy. His shady family tree looks a lot like yours and mine, with all its fractured and dysfunctional people. This is the authentic Jesus Christ!

1- From Adam to Abraham. Matthew traces Jesus to Abraham, because the Messiah was promised to come through the Jews, and he is writing to a mostly Jewish audience. Luke threads the needle all the way back to Adam, the first human being, because Jesus Christ the promised Messiah is the Savior of all people, and he is writing to mixed audience of both Jews and Gentiles.

Their listings are not identical. One says Joseph's father was Jacob, the other says Heli. Most scholars used to say Luke records Mary's lineage, and Matthew record's Joseph's line. Some say Joseph was adopted by Mary's father. Today many suggest that Matthew traces the royal lineage of Jesus (through David), while Luke tracks His physical descent (from Adam), and both lines converge at Joseph.

2- Two Important Adoptions. There are two undisputed adoptions in the lineage of Christ that we must explore. First, Joseph, the husband of Mary, adopted Jesus as his own son. Luke 3:23 says, "*Jesus, when He began His ministry, was about 30 years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph.*" In this way, legally and lineally, Jesus Christ is heir to the throne of David, as the promised offspring (2Samuel 7:12-16), and the direct descendant of both Adam and Abraham.

Scholar and apostle Paul underscores this in Galatians 3-4. In 3:16 he writes, "*now the promises were made to Abraham and his offspring. It does not say and to his offsprings (plural) referring to many, but to 'your offspring' (singular) who is Christ.*" He goes in verse 22, "*so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe*" and verse 26 "*for in Christ Jesus, you are all sons of God through faith*" not by family tree. Not all descendants of Adam are "sons of God" in relation to Jesus Christ.

3- How are YOU related to Christ? Romans 11 explains believers are "grafted" into God's forever family tree by grace through personal faith. Galatians 3:27 says, "*for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ...you are one in Christ... And if you are Christ's then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.*" Believers in Christ come into in '*union with Christ*' through the baptism of regeneration by the Holy Spirit, and so are Abraham's adopted children of faith. .

The apostle Paul explains this further in Romans 8:14-16 and Galatians 4:4-6, which says "*for when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman...to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons.*" How? John 1:11-12 explains, "*to all who received Jesus, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, to those who are born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but born of God.*" 2Corinthians 5:17 says, "*from now on therefore we regard no one according to the flesh, because if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold the new has come.*" That's spiritual adoption into Christ.

4- Can YOUR lineage be a blessing? New spiritual life in Christ results in being adopted by God into His forever family, through union with the Lord Jesus Christ, the offspring God promised to be our Savior. Your human ancestry can do nothing to save you or make you God's child, but you can leave a godly legacy through your lineage. Will your future family tree be shade or light? Make your lineage a blessing to the world by growing God's forever family tree, through personal faith in Jesus Christ! ☐