

LINEAGE OF THE LORD

Shook your family tree lately? You likely know someone who loves to tell who they're descended from, back to the Mayflower or 1,024th Indian or whatever. Maybe you have some shady branches on your tree. Outlaws among the inlaws? You're in good company. How you turned out so well is a mystery!

As a careful historian, Luke has traced the angelic announcements and miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. He gives proofs of His humanity and His divinity in one unique person. God said, "You are My beloved Son, in you I am well pleased" at His baptism by John. Luke 3:23 says, "*Jesus, when He began His ministry, was about 30 years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli.*"

1- Jesus Christ confirms - *God's perfect plan for humanity.* According to God's divine design, Jesus had a married mother and father. Jesus affirms in Matthew 19:4 "*have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.*"

Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman and God for one life together. A major purpose is godly offspring, as God said in Genesis to be fruitful and multiply, because human beings are created in God's image to be His representatives on earth. Marriage is the first human institution created by God, as the ground of civilization. Research underscores the numerous positive impacts of a strong marriage and family, not only on men, women, children, but all aspects of society throughout history.

Why all the supposed confusion today about sex and gender and marriage and children? Jesus quoted from Genesis 2, because the Bible makes crystal clear God's divine design of male and female. It plays out in Jesus' own life, as He was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary, who was engaged to Joseph so that Jesus was raised in a devout home. In fact His genealogy traces all the way back to the very first two human beings, Adam and Eve, as recorded in Genesis 1-3.

2- Jesus Christ fulfills - *God's promise of a particular offspring.* Luke 3 echoes this as he traces Jesus to Abraham and back to Noah, the son of Methusaleh, 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. Actually all human beings are descended from Noah through one of his three sons, who in turn are descended back to Adam and Eve. So we're ALL related, all from the same dysfunctional family.

There's only one blood and one race, the human race. And Jesus delineated a defined descent from Adam, because God's divine design has a dramatic dimension of redemption. Genesis 1-2 relates the creation of the human race, beginning with Adam and Eve. And Genesis 3 relates why our family tree is so messed up: the disobedient rebellion of our great-great-great-etc-great grandparents.

Romans 5:12 explains, "Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all because all sinned." Hebrews 2 says we all enter the world as inheritors of sin through the first Adam. In Genesis 3:15 God promised Adam "the offspring of the woman" who would come to pay for sin. What a disappointment their first son Cain killed their second son Abel. But then Seth was born.

3- Jesus Christ comes - *as God in the flesh.* The fulfillment of God's promise to Adam and Eve would wait thousands of years, for the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. Luke masterfully records His birth, and His human lineage, as the inspired gospel writer presents the case for the divine aspects of the coming of the Christ, in the person of the Lord Jesus. Next time we'll look more closely at each of these - and how they affirm how you can, and must, trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. God's promise! ☐