

FINAL STUDY NOTES - *LUKE CHAPTER 3* 1-20/21-2025

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

LUKE – Chapter 3 – John the Baptist Prepares the Way – (vs. 1-6); John Preaches to the People – (vs. 7-20); John Baptizes Jesus – (v. 21-22); The Genealogy of Jesus Christ – (vs. 23-38).

Chapter 3 focuses on the preparation for the main message of Luke's Gospel:

- **Jesus' ministry in Galilee.** His ministry on the way to Jerusalem
- **In chapter three, we have the genealogy of Jesus back to Adam**, very interesting. The genealogy that carries us from Mary back to Adam.

- **Note the contrast in the genealogy of Luke with the genealogy of Matthew.** Because though they both go back to David, they come from a different line. Joseph's genealogy **from David passes through Solomon** and comes from a different family line than that of Mary's, which when you get to David, and her genealogy follows **from the David's son Nathan**. It is significant that we have the two genealogies, noticing the difference in the family line from David on to Christ, which is very significant in perfecting prophecies relating to both His kingly (legal) line as well as His bloodline!

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Luk 3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,

- **Luke gives to us six dating factors for the beginning of the ministry of John the Baptist.** He tells us first of all that it was, *Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar*. Tiberius Caesar was described as cruel, licentious and was an evil man, beginning his reign in the year 14 A.D. The fifteenth year of his reign actually began on the 19th of August in the year 28 A.D. So sometime between the year 28 A.D. and 29 A.D. John the Baptist began his ministry.
- **Later on in this chapter, Luke will tell us that Jesus began His ministry when He was about thirty years old.** We know that John the Baptist was about six months older than Jesus. But Jesus began His ministry when He was about thirty years old.
- **Not only was Tiberius Caesar the emperor of Rome but, Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea.**
- *When Herod the Great died in about the year 4 B.C.*, we know that Herod the Great was alive at the birth of Christ, and so he died in 4 B.C. which places the birth of Christ somewhere around the year 5 or 6 B.C.
- **When they established the calendar, the man who was given the commission**, in working out the dates, it used to be that the Roman calendar was dated with the beginning of Rome. But then when Christianity became powerful and the Roman emperor ordered a new calendar, made a mistake as far as the date of the birth of Christ. The idea was to date the new calendar with the birth of Christ, but he missed it by a few years. So, we get a little discrepancy there, but it is not a biblical discrepancy, it is one of man, which is very common.
- **Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea.** When Herod the Great died, his kingdom was divided to his three sons. Philippi had the northernmost part of the kingdom, Syria and in the upper areas of the Galilee. He built Caesarea, Philippi which is right at the base of Mount Herman just up the north of the country, head waters of the Jordan river.
- **Antipas had the area around the Galilee and Archelaus** his son was given Edom, Judah and Samaria. But Archelaus was such an evil ruler that the Jews petitioned Rome. He was deposed and the Roman government sent Pontius Pilate to be the governor over Judaea in the place of Archelaus. He governed in Judaea from 25, 26 A.D. to 37 A.D., bracketing Jesus' ministry.
- **In secular history for a long time, they found no account of Pontius Pilate.** There are people who spend their life trying to prove that the Bible is not the word of God. It is not the inspired word of God. They will jump on every little thing to try and prove that there is some discrepancy, some error, in order that they might disprove the inspiration of the scriptures. For a long time, those men, really enemies of the word of God, jumped on the issue of Pontius Pilate. They tried to make a big case out of the fact that there is no record of history concerning Pontius Pilate, the whole story is just a myth, it has all made up and he is just a mythological character. But when they were doing some archaeological diggings around Caesarea there on the coast. they found this stone with the inscription of Pontius Pilate!
- **Again, the critics prove to be wrong and the Bible stands right.** They sent this to the British Museum. They have a copy of it to the present day in Caesarea and you can see the copy of the stone. The actual stone today is in the British Museum. But the name of Pilate was on it, thus confirming that Pilate was the governor, reigning in Caesarea. During the holidays he would come to Jerusalem and bring a company of Roman soldiers with him because it was during the holidays that the national spirit was very high among the Jews and more tendency towards revolt. So that is why we find him in Jerusalem when Jesus was brought before him to be judged.
- **And Herod was the tetrarch of Galilee.** Tetrarch means ruler of a fourth part literally. But it was changed and the word tetrarch just means governor. He was the governor of the Galilee region. This is

the Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, the one who imprisoned John the Baptist because John spoke against his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife. She became angry with him and urged her husband to imprison him. Later, she asked for his head, the head of John the Baptist, and so this is the Herod who was the tetrarch of Galilee. He ruled in that area from 4 B.C., the death of his father, unto the year 39 A.D.

- ***His brother Philip, we are told, was the governor over Iturea***, the northern portion, up into Syria. He reigned from 4 B.C. to 33 A.D. ***We are not told much about Lysanias who was the tetrarch of Abilene.***

Luk 3:2 while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

- **Here is an interesting situation in history where you had two high priests.** Annas was the older, beginning his high priesthood at the year 7 A.D. and was the high priest until 14 A.D. But he angered the Roman government, who replaced him with one after another of his sons. There were actually four of his sons who for a time were appointed by the Roman government as high priest, but all four of them sort of came into ill repute under Rome. Finally, his son-in-law Caiaphas was a collaborator with Rome and so he was finally appointed by the Roman government as the high priest.
- **He was a political appointee of Rome. As such, he not really recognized** by the Jewish people. But they did recognize Annas. So Annas was in the minds of the Jews still as the high priest though the actual office was being fulfilled by Caiaphas, the Roman appointee. But the very fact that Rome had a part of it made the Jews angry and they really did not recognize Caiaphas as their high priest. But they recognized Annas and thus he was still sort of the man, the power behind the office. Thus, you have an unusual situation where there were two high priests at the same time. So, it was at this time in history around the year 28, 29 A.D.
- **At this time the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.** The word *unto* is translated from the Greek word, *epi*, which is literally, “came upon” him. There was an anointing of God that came upon his life. His parents who were very old when he was born. He was probably about twenty years old, when he moved to the wilderness to just wait upon God. He was the son of a priest and thus at twenty years they began their duties as priest. But instead of going to the temple and doing the priestly duties, he went to the wilderness and was there for about twelve years as he was just waiting upon the Lord, opening his heart unto God and “the word of God, we read, *came upon John the son of Zacharias there in the wilderness.*”

Luk 3:3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,

- **Down by the Jordan river, not very far from Jericho, John began his public ministry** as he was, *preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.* Baptism was a Jewish rite. When you proselyted into the Jewish faith, you were baptized into the Jewish faith, and it signified your becoming a Jew. The old identity is dead, you now become a Jew through baptism.
- **John was preaching that baptism was for the repentance of sins.** And coming now a new life in the Spirit, as you would now be cleansed through your sins through repentance and through baptism. So, it was called the *baptism of repentance*. It means a changed life, similar to the Christian realm where it is the burying of the old life of the flesh and the beginning of the new life of the Spirit. It is a change and it signifies a changed life. The old life is dead, it is buried. There is now a new life that we intend to live. A new life after the Spirit. John was “*preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*”

Luk 3:4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS: 'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.

Luk 3:5 EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL BROUGHT LOW; THE CROOKED PLACES SHALL BE MADE STRAIGHT AND THE ROUGH WAYS SMOOTH;

- **Isaiah was writing of God's smoothing the way for the return of the exiles from Babylon to Judah.** But all three Synoptic Gospel writer's applied (*Isa 40:3-5*) to John the Baptist.
- **When a king was to visit a part of his realm or domain, the couriers would be sent out** in advance to prepare the way for the king. The people would be commanded to repair the roads, and straighten out the crooked places. Fill in the ditches, the pot-holes. To level out the steep areas and to smooth out

the rough places in order that the king might be able to travel in ease and in comfort through the area. You do not want the king being jostled around, so smooth things out, straighten out the crooked paths and fill in the valleys and bring down the steep areas that they might prepare the way for the king. Thus, John the Baptist was declaring that the King is coming! Prepare for the coming of the King! In the taking of the symbolisms, there is the application to the person's personal life, which is making the crooked paths straight!

- ***What crooked places in my life need to be made straight? Am I willing for them to be made straight and the rough ways smooth?***
- ***There are people who are guilty of doing a lot of crooked things.*** He is saying is to straighten out your life! Do not live a crooked life anymore but straighten out your life, the valleys or depressions in the landscape. This is not the time for depression, the King is coming! It is a time for joy and rejoicing. Prepare by having a heart that is filled with rejoicing and praises for the coming of the King. The smoothing, preparing of the land was a figurative expression denoting that the way of the Messiah would be made smooth because through John a large number of people were ready to receive Jesus' message.
- ***Amos cried unto the people, (Amo 4:12b) I will do this to you, Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!*** There are so many people who are totally unprepared to meet the Lord! You dare not meet the Lord in your sinful state. You must come and ask forgiveness and receive that forgiveness, preparing your heart that because the Lord is going to come again and the King is coming!
- ***The message of John the Baptist was very relevant for that day, and it is relevant for today!*** In those days, there was political corruption. Tiberius Caesar was a horrible man, extremely corrupt. And the political system was just corrupted because of that. The religious system was corrupted. Annas and Caiaphas were Sadducees. They were materialists. They were the humanists. They looked at religion as a way of profiteering off of people. They were sort of like some of the TV evangelists that they look at it as a means of just taking advantage of people, who are wanting and seeking God, promising them miracles. So these men had learned ways to profiteer off of religion. Thus, the whole religious scene was messed up and it was corrupt. So, it was a time of spiritual and moral chaos.
- ***Josephus speaks of how desperate it was when it was under the siege by the Romans in Jerusalem. How that more Jews were killed by their fellow Jews than were actually killed by the Romans. It was a time of chaos. In that time the Lord came to bring order. John is saying, Prepare for the Lord! Certainly today, we see political chaos; the religious chaos; and the message of John is extremely relevant for today also!***

Luk 3:6 AND ALL FLESH (not just the Jewish flesh, but all) SHALL SEE THE SALVATION OF GOD.' "

- ***The coming One will bring the salvation of God. (Mat 1:21) And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."*** All people will see the salvation of God. Later John, the gospel writer, tells us that John the Baptist was standing with his disciples when Jesus passed by and John said, ***(Joh 1:29b) "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! And the disciples left John and began to follow Jesus. So, the world is going to see God's salvation.***

Luk 3:7 Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

- ***I love this, he is a fiery guy. Because here a multitude that comes to be baptized. He said, Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*** John is very direct. Very straight. Who moved you? *Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?* And he calls to them for action.
- ***It is not just coming, just because there are a lot of people doing it.*** There is not a real true commitment, a real true repentance but it is just, everybody is going. It becomes the thing and so they just sort of follow on. But it is not something that is genuine in their own heart. So, John is sort of addressing these. He calls these "*Brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth fruits that are worthy of repentance," that really demonstrate that you have repented.*

Luk 3:8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

- ***(2Co 7:9-10) Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. [10] For***

godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- **Let us see some evidence that proves that changes have actually been made!** That takes sometimes a period of time. You see, if you've been in a particular kind of a bent for a long time, it is hard to believe that you've changed. Now I do believe that you can change. I believe that that is what the Gospel is all about. That there can be an immediate drastic change in a person's life through the entering of Jesus Christ. That is what salvation and the Gospel is all about. And we have seen these dramatic changes that do take place when a person truly accepts the Lord.
- **But a lot of times, you need just a little space to see if the change is genuine or not.** So, John is saying, let us see the fruits worthy of repentance. Let us see the evidence that changes have been made. *"Bring forth the fruits that are worthy of repentance."*
- **Do not rest on your nationality, your family's lineage!** Do not just say, We are the *children of Abraham!* Do not rest upon your relationship, your nationality because the Jews sort of felt that because they were Jews, they were saved. Much like a lot of people in the United States. Because they are U.S. citizens, they are Christians. It is not so!
- **God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.** Therefore we have no reason to depend upon our external privileges and professions of religion, because God has no need of us or of our services, but can effectually secure by His own honor and interest without us. If we were cut off and ruined, He could raise up to Himself a church out of the most unlikely; *children to Abraham* even out of **stones**.
- **John was baptizing in the area of Jordon where Joshua had led the children of Israel into the Promised Land.** It could be these are the stones to which he was referring. (Jos 4:7c,9) And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever." [9] Then Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests who bore the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there to this day.

Luk 3:9 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

- **Even now the ax is laid.** Speaking of Judaism as it was currently in its apostate condition of the Sadducees and the Pharisees, God already has the axe out! He is chopping away the roots. In other words, Sadducees and Pharisees, your days are limited.
- **One must face the fact that wrath is coming.** Luke recorded the message of John in ethical terms. John's teaching was that one's life proves whether or not he has truly repented.
- **Am I, are we bringing forth good fruit? How much? How abundantly?**

Luk 3:10 So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"

- **His message brought conviction.** You are to make the crooked paths straight, you are to bring down the mountains and the hills, you are to fill in the valleys, and you are to make the rough places smooth. You are to bring forth fruit that demonstrates that you have really changed. And if you don't bring forth fruit, you're going to be cut down. Cast into the fire. It is either repentance and change or you are through! So, they asked him, *"What shall we do then?"*

Be Generous - Luk 3:11 He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."

- **In other words, consider the poor and the needy. Do not be self-centered.** Oftentimes, the depressions that people experience come from self-centeredness. Every time I start thinking about me, I get depressed. There are a lot of changes I would like to see if I could remake me. But a person who is into himself gets depressed.
- **So, the people said, What shall we do? He said, Get out of yourselves, start thinking about others.** Be generous! If you have two coats, give one away. If you have extra food give it away. Start living for others and considering others and thinking about others. A great way to get out of yourself is to begin to minister to others!
- **Am I? (Are you) known for my generosity or my stinginess?**

Luk 3:12 Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

- **The tax collectors were some of the most hated people in the land.** They were considered by the Jews traitors. They were collaborators with Rome. The tax collectors were over a certain territory and

the Roman government would levy a certain amount of tax for that territory. It was the duty of the tax collector to collect and deliver the amount that Rome required for that particular territory.

- **However, the Roman government gave a bonus to the tax collector** in that once he had delivered to Rome all of the taxes that they required, anything that he could collect over that amount he could keep personally. So, they were noted to be cheats and to be shysters and to actually push people, over-taxing and over-assessing their goods. Thus, they were wealthy people and were extremely hated by the people because they were so crooked. So, they said to John, "*What shall we do?*"

Be Honest - Luk 3:13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."

- **In other words, do not try to raise the bonuses by crooked taxation and falsely assessing the goods of the people but be honest, be fair in your practices.** He is asking, *Bring forth fruit*. All right, *what shall we do?* Well, the fruit of the change is thinking about others, giving to others, the fruit of the change is not cheating people anymore

Be Content - Luk 3:14 Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."

- **You have been given authority and authority so often lifts a person up, way up!** You become arrogant with authority. You have got the power and you are going to exercise and show people that you have the authority and power. Government at times, is a pain because you give some of these people a little power and they just make life miserable for everybody else. If you have gone to try and get a building permit lately, it is just terrible the things that you have to go through to do anything anymore. He is just saying to them, Look, do not misuse your authority!

Luk 3:15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not,

- **Because of the ministry of John, they were excited. There is something happening.** The Lord had not spoken for about four hundred years, from Malachi unto the time of Zacharias. Now God is speaking and He is beginning to move. They recognize that the word of God is upon this man, the anointing of God is upon his life. They are drawn, they are hungry for a true move of God. They are drawn down to the Jordan river where this rugged, rough, ruddy individual is coming out of the desert, eating locusts and wild honey. Yet, there is something there that is attracting the people. He is very direct, very straight, calling them to repent, baptizing people. There is a move that is taking place and the people are in a spirit of expectancy! Something is happening! God is moving!
- **All reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not.** Could he be the Messiah? There is an anointing on his life. There is something happening. People are being attracted and drawn. Could he be the Messiah?

Luk 3:16 John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

- **So, to the reasoning in their hearts, "Is he the Messiah?" No!** If you are impressed with water baptism and if you are impressed with me, you have not seen anything yet! The Messiah is going to come! He is going to *baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire*. Talking about those who were born again, they will be filled with the Holy Spirit. Those who reject Him as Messiah and Savior, judgment fire will be there.
- **There is One who is coming after me, Who is mightier than I am. I am not really worthy to loose His sandal strap!** He is going to baptize you, not with water but *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire*.

Luk 3:17 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.

- **John is talking about Jesus, He is going to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.** And His fan is in His hand, and He is going to thoroughly purge the floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff will be blown away. In *(Psa 1:3-4) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water; That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. [4] The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.*
- **So here the same kind of an allegory is used concerning Jesus but with the fan in His hand blowing away the chaff, which will be burned with an unquenchable fire and the wheat He will gather into His**

barn. The King is coming and the King is going to gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn!

- **Now the main thing then is to determine, Am I, are you, wheat or are you chaff?** It is important that that distinction is made. There is a lot of chaff and then there is the true wheat and by the grace of God and the work of Jesus Christ. We are the wheat that will be gathered by Him.

Luk 3:18 *And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.*

- **He is very direct, very straight with them and he exhorted them.** He was quite an exhorter. This was not his only message. We remember when the disciples came to Jesus and said teach us to pray. The way that John teaches his disciples, or how come others came to Jesus? Is that how come your disciples do not fast the way that John the Baptist teaches his disciples to fast? John was involved in discipleship with people in preparation for coming of Messiah on multiple levels.

Luk 3:19 *But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,*

- **Herod was an evil man who had done a lot of evil things.** He abused his position of power. He went to Rome and enticed his brother's wife to move back with him to Galilee, that she might be the queen. In fact, they did seek to get him the title of king which sort of put him on the outs with the Roman emperor.
- **But John the Baptist, being a straight shooter, said that is not right!** What you have done is evil, it is wrong, it is a sin. It upset Herodias and hell hath no fury like a woman scorned and she was scorned by the prophet! So, she was after John.

Luk 3:20 *also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison.*

- **The other gospels tell us how that Herodias' daughter, the stepdaughter of Herod, danced for him** and his friends. He was moved lustily for her, saying he would give her anything she wanted. She asked for the head of John the Baptist. This is that Herod.

Luk 3:21 *When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.*

- **Luke does not tell us how that John first of all objected to Jesus being baptized or baptizing Jesus.** He said I need that You should baptize me. But Luke just tells us that "*when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also was baptized.*"
- **And while He prayed, the heaven was opened.** This word for prayer, and there are probably seven Greek words or so for prayer, that are supplication, are different aspects and types of prayer, intercession and so forth, this word is all-encompassing. It is a worship and adoration kind of a thing so that, and it is only Luke that tells us that while Jesus was baptized, He was standing there just worshipping! Just in adoration when the heaven was opened.
- **The heaven there is singular which would be the third heaven** or the dwelling place of God. There are heavens; there is atmosphere around the earth, which is called heaven, there is the celestial heaven—the stars, the moon, the planets and so forth, then there is the heaven which is the actual dwelling place of God. So, it is called the third heaven to distinguish it from the atmosphere around the earth and from the celestial heavens, the dwelling place of God, "*the heaven was opened,*"

Luk 3:22 *And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*

- **And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him.** Here is the only place in the scripture where the Holy Spirit is in the *bodily form like a dove*. In the Talmud, when it speaks of Genesis chapter one where the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters, it talks about how that the Spirit of God in the form of a dove moved over the face of the waters. So that it is in the Talmud but it is not found in the Bible itself except here. Here is the Holy Spirit in the bodily form like a dove. Jesus said, **(Mat 10:16)** "*Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*" It is a way of just saying that you are to be gentle, without guile, like a dove.
- **Also, we know that the dove was the accepted sacrifice for the poor.** If they could not afford to bring a lamb, they could bring doves. Now the Spirit of God in the *bodily form like a dove*, Jesus is to be the sacrifice. And the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, one of the sacrificial animals, descends and lights upon Him.

- **And a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.** Luke in showing to us the human side of Jesus is the only writer who mentions that Jesus was praying when He was baptized. And Luke tells us that Jesus was praying when He was transfigured. He tells us that Jesus was praying when the disciples came back and were reporting the glorious things that God had done.
- **My Beloved Son. This statement combines two ideas.** The idea of **God's Son** comes from (*Psa 2:7*) *"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You; a Psalm about God's chosen King.* The idea of **God's pleasure comes from the image of the Servant** in (*Isa 42:1*) *"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.* This image depicts Jesus' election by God, and the special favor He enjoyed. The fact that Jesus is **both King and Servant** is fundamental to Jesus' identity.
- **Three times God spoke from heaven.** One, at His baptism. Two, when He was on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mat 17:5c). Three, when just before His crucifixion when He was praying that the Father would glorify the Son in His submission to the Father to the cross (Joh 12:27,28). In all three instances, it was in relationship to the death of Christ and His obedience to the Father in the death.
- **Here at the baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The beginning of His ministry** but His whole purpose in coming is that He might submit to the will of the Father and go to the cross and die for our sins.
- **It is an interesting thing of Jesus being baptized**, it was right what John said, You do not need to be baptized. I need you should baptize me. (*Mat 3:15*) *But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."* Then he allowed Him. Even there He was baptized in John's baptism which was for the repentance of sin, although He had done no sin. But He was being baptized because He was going to take upon Himself our sin. For that, He was then going to die! So, the whole idea of the cross is tied together with the voice of God from heaven declaring His pleasure in His Son!!
- **So here we find the Trinity! The three; the Son being baptized; the Holy Spirit descending upon Him; and the Father speaking from heaven.** The triunity of the Godhead!

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ – descendants from Nathan (v. 31) to Joseph (v.21) unique in Luke!
Luk 3:23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the (adopted, the son-in-law) son of Heli, (Mary was the daughter of Heli!)

- ***Being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, who was the son of Heli. Luke makes it clear that Joseph was not the father of the Lord Jesus Christ! Jesus was not actually the son of Joseph but was adopted. Thus, by the law He was the son of Joseph, perfecting the kingly line!***
- ***In Matthew's genealogy, the legal, royal or kingly line, he tells us that Joseph was the son of Jacob***. Here he is called the son of Heli, a difference. Because here in Luke, we have actually the genealogy of Mary. He was the son of Heli by marriage. In Matthew you have **the actual genealogy of Joseph**. Here in **the genealogy of Mary**, a son of Heli by marriage, by virtue of his marriage to Mary.
- ***In Matthew's gospel, they trace his genealogy back to Abraham because through David***, because the Messiah was to be the descendant of the seed of Abraham. He was also to be of the seed of David. So, they **traced him back to Abraham through David**. In Mary's genealogy, it is traced all the way back to Adam who is the son of God. Luke was writing basically to the Gentiles. And He is not just the Savior of the Jews, He is the Savior of the world, **all mankind!** Thus, he goes back to Adam. From Adam to David, the genealogies are the same.
- ***In Luke's genealogy, we see the blood line of the Messiah; the importance of the Virgin birth***. At David, the genealogies then change. In Matthew who is giving the genealogy of Joseph, from David the royal or kingly line, it comes through Solomon. And on down then to Joseph. In Mary's genealogy, from David it **comes to David's son Nathan, the blood line – the need for a virgin birth**.
- ***Why the virgin birth?*** Many reasons, (*Gen 3:15*) *And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel. (Isa 7:14) Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."* So, from David on you are following in Mary a little different genealogy than that of Joseph in that Joseph comes through **Solomon** and the kingly line of

Solomon. Whereas Mary's comes through another son of David, **Nathan**. So, both of them could trace their ancestry back to David, only through different lines of David's family.

- **The right of inheritance from a woman**, which is needed to perfect the inheritance of the bloodline from a woman. (*Num 27:7; 36:2,6,10*) "The daughters of Zelophehad speak what is right; you shall surely give them a possession of inheritance among their father's brothers, and cause the inheritance of their father to pass to them. [36:2] And they said: "The LORD commanded my lord Moses to give the land as an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters. [6] This is what the LORD commands concerning the daughters of Zelophehad, saying, 'Let them marry whom they think best, but they may marry only within the family of their father's tribe.' [10] Just as the LORD commanded Moses, so did the daughters of Zelophehad.

Luk 3:24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph,

Luk 3:25 the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai,

Luk 3:26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah,

Luk 3:27 the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,

Luk 3:28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er,

Luk 3:29 the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,

Luk 3:30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim,

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ –(descendants from Abraham (v. 34) to David (v.31) same as Matthew.

Luk 3:31 the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan (unique in Luke's genealogy), the son of David,

- The following names down to Abraham are the same as in the Matthew genealogy.

Luk 3:32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,

Luk 3:33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,

Luk 3:34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,

Luk 3:35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,

Luk 3:36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,

Luk 3:37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan,

Luk 3:38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God!

- **But the important thing to really note is in Matthew's genealogy.** Coming through Solomon onto Joseph, we have there in the kingly genealogy (*Mat 1:11-12*) *Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. [12] And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.* It brings it on to Joseph. But the one I wanted to point out was this man, **Jeconiah** (or Coniah, or Jehoiachin, who was son of Jehoiakim.)
- **In (Jer 22:28, 30) "Is this man Coniah**, shortened form of Jechoniah, (Je Coniah), the Je is Jehovah. So Coniah, Jeremiah will not recognize that he is related to Jehovah, he was a wicked king) *a despised, broken idol; A vessel in which is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know? [30] Thus says the LORD: 'Write this man down as childless, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah.'*"
- **(Jer 36:30-31) Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: "He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. [31] I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed.**

- **Had Jesus been the son (instead of the adopted, son-in-law) of Joseph, He would have been disqualified** from sitting on the throne of David which the prophecies declare concerning the Messiah. *“His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, to order it, and to establish it” (Isa 9:6,7).* But we see, He will sit on the throne of David rightfully, through the blood line, because of the virgin birth, as He is a descendant of Nathan who is the son of David. And thus, He can sit upon the throne.
- **If He were through Joseph, He could not because of Jechoniah’ and the blood curse upon Jechoniah** because of his evil ways, none of his seed would sit upon the throne of David anymore, ruling in Judah.
- **So, we have the two genealogies, showing the prophecies perfectly completed!** Jesus, the Messiah, coming through the kingly line of David, through Joseph (through Solomon) and **coming perfectly through the bloodline through Mary** (through Nathan)! Jesus is actually the Son of God and through Mary, whose line goes back through David through Abraham, tracing all the way back to Adam!

SUMMARY

- ***What crooked places in my life need to be made straight? Am I willing for them to be made straight and the rough ways smooth? (Luk 3:5)***
- ***Am I, are we bringing forth good fruit? How much? How abundantly? (Luk 3:9)***
- ***Am I? (Are you) known for my generosity or my stinginess? (Luk 3:11)***
- ***Now the main thing then is to determine, Am I, are you, wheat or are you chaff? (Luk 3:17)***

CLOSING SONG – (Luk 3:22) *And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."*

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD – Dan Iverson (1:45/1:48)

*Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me. (2x)*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study *Luke Chapter 4!* For background please also read (*Isa 14:12-17 & Eph 6:10-18*).