

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## The Messiah Confirmed: Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior

Luke 3:21-38

**Read Luke 3:21-22...** The people were coming out to the Jordan River to be baptized by John, and on one of those days, Jesus, being the righteous Son of God, and an obedient son of Israel, came to be baptized.

Jesus looked like any other Jew, and the fact that He was God's Son, the Messiah was not distinguishable when He walked into the water to be baptized by John. But what happened at that event clearly confirms Jesus as the Messiah.

**Matthew 3:13-15**, "Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?' But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.' Then he permitted Him."

**John 1:31**, John the Baptist said, "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water."

Jesus came specifically to be baptized by John, "to fulfill all righteousness," a reference to God's plan and purpose for Jesus' relationship with humanity, which must include man's sinfulness.

Jesus submitted to a baptism for sinners, although He had no sin in Himself (**1John 3:5**), "He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin," (**2Corinthians 5:21**), "He [God the Father] made Him [God the Son] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Jesus was setting an example for all those who would follow Him, and therefore, John consented and baptized Him.

Notice again in **Luke 3:21**, Jesus is praying, talking to His Father, and what happened next is amazing, "heaven was opened." Whenever that happened in Scripture, God either spoke, or manifested Himself in some other way.

**Ezekiel 1:1**, "Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth *day* of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God."

While Stephen was being martyred (**Acts 7:56**) he said, "I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." And John the apostle (**Revelation 19:11**) said, "I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it *is* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war."

Notice again in **Luke 3:22a**, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven, in a form like a dove. This is not saying that a visible dove like bird was actually seen at Jesus' baptism, but that there was a visible movement in the air, i.e., "The manner of the Spirit's descent was like the way a dove floats gracefully through the air" [Darrell L. Bock, *Luke 1:1-9:50* Commentary, pg. 338].

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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Jesus wasn't receiving the Holy Spirit; He already had the Holy Spirit, in fact He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit while He was in the womb.

**Psalm 2:7**, "He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'"

The OT taught that God would give the Spirit to the Messiah.

**Isaiah 11:2**, "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him."

**Isaiah 42:1**, "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations."

The dove was associated with sacrifice by the Jews of the day; bulls were used by the rich, lambs were used by the middle class, but doves were the sacrifice of poor, and this sign confirmed that Jesus was indeed God's Son [Immanuel]; He would serve as the sacrifice to save us from the penalty of sin [Jesus].

Jesus identified Himself with the lowly sinners He had come to save, even setting the example of baptism even though He had no need to repent of sin. God the Son, while He was in the flesh, although His human nature was sinless and perfect, He voluntarily submitted Himself to the will of the Father and to the power of the Holy Spirit while He was on earth.

Notice again in **Luke 3:22b**, "and a voice came out of heaven, 'You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased.'" This actually the main point of this passage, that God the Father is giving audible approval of His beloved Son, of who the Father says He is well-pleased [*continually pleased*].

In **Matthew 17:5**, at the Transfiguration, God the Father speaks from heaven concerning His Son, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

And so, Jesus begins His public ministry with the expressed confirmation coming from God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, in fulfillment of God's Sovereign Word.

**Philippians 2:5-7**, "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men."

**Read Luke 3:23...** I'm not going to read through the whole genealogy, but instead point out its importance, and some of the key information contained in it.

There seems to be a renewed interest today in genealogy, as many people seek to learn more about their ancestry. For many, it is just a curiosity, but for some, they are seeking to find some important person in their family tree.

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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For Israel, genealogy was very important, beginning with the original division of the land of Canaan among the twelve tribes (cf. **Numbers 26:53-55**); it was indeed critical for the people to know their ancestral line, e.g., when Joseph and Mary returned to Bethlehem for the census, it was because Joseph's ancestors came from the area of Bethlehem (cf. **Luke 2:4**).

Lineage was very important for determining who would serve as priests (cf. **Ezra 2:61-62**), to carry out the religious rituals and sacrifices at the temple.

The Old Testament has many genealogies written into the Biblical record. The Jews kept accurate and copious genealogical records, but most were destroyed in A.D. 70, by the Romans, when Jerusalem was ransacked and the Temple was burned.

But the most important role of ancestral records in Israel has to do with the line through which the Messiah-King would come. The genealogies of Jesus are recorded in both Matthew and Luke:

Matthew, writing mostly to Jews, begins (**Matthew 1:1**), "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham," and so Matthew traces Jesus' ancestry through Joseph's lineage, beginning with Abraham (**v. 2**, the father of Israel) and moving through Solomon, the son of David (**v. 6**, the king of Israel), to the final entry (**v. 16**), Joseph's father Jacob, "the father of *Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born*, who is called the Messiah."

Luke, writing to both Jew and Gentile says (**Luke 3:23**), "When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, *being, as was supposed*, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli (*Mary's father, who was Joseph's father-in-law, whereas, Eli was actually the blood grandfather of Jesus*); and so Luke traces Jesus' ancestry through Mary's lineage back through Nathan, the son of David (**v. 31**, the king of Israel), to Abraham (**v. 34**, the father of Israel), ending with Adam (**v. 38**).

So why the two genealogies? Matthew's genealogy gives Jesus the legal right to the throne of Israel, through his legal father's (Joseph's) ancestry; whereas Luke's genealogy gives Jesus the blood right to the throne of Israel, through His biological mother, Mary. These genealogies establish credible proof that Jesus was indeed a descendant of David.

Adam (cf. **Luke 3:38**) as a son of God at creation, was made in the undefiled image of God, but then Adam disobeyed God and this brought the curse of sin upon himself, his sons, and all those born after him, except for one, Jesus Christ.

**Genesis 1:27**, "God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." **31**, "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day."

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## The Messiah Confirmed: Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior

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**Genesis 4:1-2**, "Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, 'I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the Lord.*' Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel."

**Genesis 5:3**, "When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth."

Jesus was a son of Adam (cf. **Luke 3:38**), but without any sin (**Hebrews 4:14-15**), "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

Jesus as a son of David (cf. **Luke 3:31**), will reign as KING of Kings and LORD of Lords, forever (**Luke 1:30-33**), The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end," (**Revelation 11:15**), "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Jesus was a son of Abraham (cf. **Luke 3:34**), to whom the promised blessings were given to those who are in Christ (**Genesis 3:14-15**, "The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life; and I will put enmity [*blood feud or war*] between you and the woman [*Eve, the mother of all humans except for Adam*], and between your seed [*offspring- children of the devil*] and her seed [*offspring- children of God*]; He [*a certain offspring, Jesus Christ*] shall crush your head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.'"

**Galatians 3:16**, "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, 'And to your seed,' that is, Christ." **26-29**, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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**Romans 5:12**, "through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned," **15-17**, "But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. **21**, "so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Death and the condemnation brought on by sin's penalty, came through Adam to all humanity; but eternal life and the justification of God's righteousness which redeems us, was provided for everyone who repents of sin, confessing Christ as Lord, believing in Him as Savior, and following Him by obeying God's Word.

Christians are a blessed people who have been set free from sin's penalty and condemnation; for it is by God's grace we have been saved through Christ, that we might have an intimate relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, while serving God here on earth.

We are eternally blessed through Jesus Christ, God's Son, Lord and Savior; Who (**1Corinthians 15:3-4**) "died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," and He is coming back to take all those who believe to Him, to be with Him in forever, in heaven!

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