

## The Son of God

*Luke 3:23–38*

**Main Point:** Luke includes this genealogy to demonstrate both the historicity of Jesus' background, as well as to point out the humanity of Jesus (and His link with *all* humanity without distinction). Because Jesus is truly God and truly man, He is a faithful high priest for us.

### I. Jesus is the Human Son of Man

A. Human 77 genealogies place Jesus in a real time in human history.

1. Thirty-six of the names are unknown characters, signifying that the genealogy of Jesus looks much like any of ours.
2. Many of the names can be found in Genesis 5 and 1 Chronicles 1–3.

B. The genealogy presented by Luke differs with Matthew on several points. Why?

1. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus emphasizes the *royal* lineage of Christ (back to David).
2. Luke emphasizes the human lineage of Jesus, particularly through Mary.
  - a) Matthew says that Joseph (Mary's husband) was the son of Jacob (Matthew 1:16).
  - b) Luke says that Joseph was the son of Heli (Luke 3:23).

c) How do we explain this difference?

(1) It was not uncommon in ancient Jewish culture for a father who did not have any sons to adopt his son-in-law.

(2) The son-in-law would then become the heir to the inheritance.

(3) It is possible that Mary's father was Heli, who did not have any sons and as a result adopted Joseph to be his son and heir to the family inheritance.

## **II. Jesus is the True Son of God**

A. Luke could have stopped with Adam in his genealogy so as to emphasize that Jesus is truly man.

B. Luke continues beyond Adam to the Creator, God Himself.

C. Luke demonstrates here that the God-man Jesus was not an afterthought in the plan of the Triune Godhead.

D. Luke shows his readers the providential working of God to bring about "the fulness of time" in the sending of the Messiah.