

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 3: 32-38

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 3, verses 32 to 38.

Many saints, when reading the Bible, skip over the genealogy section in Matthew chapter 1, and Luke chapter 3. A long list of names seems to have no meaning for us at all; but I still urge brothers and sisters, since it is in the Bible, we should carefully read it through.

These genealogies outline for us the importance of the Old Testament. The entire Old Testament has one purpose: God, through the nation of Israel, would produce the Messiah, and this Messiah would be the Savior of all mankind. Therefore, every Old Testament figure in the genealogy of Jesus Christ was specially chosen and specially used by God to bring forth the Savior of all humanity.

Yesterday we read Matthew's account, which is the genealogy of Joseph, coming from the line of Solomon after King David. Luke's account is the genealogy of Mary, also from King David, but from another son of David, Nathan, and finally reaching Heli; Heli was Mary's father. After David, Luke continues pushing backward. If you compare Matthew and Luke, you will find they are completely consistent from David to Abraham. Today we start reading from verse 32.

Verses 32–34a: “the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham.”

From Abraham to David, if you carefully count, it is exactly the same as recorded in Matthew, fourteen generations. In this section of the record, Matthew specially includes three women: Judah begot Perez from Tamar; Tamar is the first woman; she was originally Judah's daughter-in-law, but ultimately became Judah's wife, and from Judah came the royal line.

Verse 5, Salmon begot Boaz from Rahab. Rahab was originally a prostitute in Jericho; Salmon was likely one of the spies, so in the royal line was added a Gentile woman, not just a Gentile woman, but a prostitute.

Next, Boaz begot Obed from Ruth. Ruth was a Moabitess; Moab came from Lot's incest with his daughter. Originally, God's decree was that Moabites could not enter God's assembly for ten generations, yet in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, there is a Moabitess, Ruth. These women are all God's special grace, including them in the genealogy of Jesus Christ; each of them has a beautiful story behind her—if there is time to read the Old Testament, we should carefully read these three women. But these records are completely absent in Luke; he simply states straight: Perez was the son of Judah, Boaz was the son of Salmon, Obed was the son of Boaz.

Another thing worth noting is that from Abraham to David there are fourteen generations, from David becoming king and reigning until the exile there are another fourteen generations. After the exile, there were no more kings; they became ordinary common people, until Joseph, another fourteen generations. Three sets of fourteen generations, totaling forty-two generations.

Matthew records that Jesus is the coming King, the chosen seed from Abraham. Therefore, his ancestors are traced back to Abraham. But Luke's purpose is to record that Jesus Christ is man, a complete man; therefore, he does not stop at Abraham, but continues pushing forward after Abraham.

Verses 34b–36a: “the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah.”

We pause here first; if you carefully count, from Noah to Abraham there are a total of ten generations; please remember this ten generations here, and we will continue reading.

Verses 36b–38: “ the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.”

If you count again, from Adam to Noah is another ten generations. Actually, this hides a very mysterious thing in the Old Testament: from the first generation of mankind, Adam, to Noah, exactly ten generations; from Noah to Abraham, again exactly ten generations; from Abraham onward, until King David, it becomes fourteen generations. What is so special about this? Numbers in the Bible all have spiritual meaning. Ten is the number of human completeness. From the first generation of mankind, Adam, to later when humanity sinned, people fell again and again, generation after generation, until the tenth generation, Noah, when humanity's fall reached a complete state. In Genesis 6:5, “Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

When humanity fell to an irredeemable state, after ten generations—that is, a complete period of time—humanity's fall developed to completeness, and God had to come out to judge. But in God's judgment, God is still full of grace and forbearance. At that time on earth there was one man, Noah; God saw him as righteous, perfect in his generation. Therefore, in His judgment, God sent the flood to destroy all humanity at that time; only Noah's family of eight was saved from the flood.

Among the first ten generations of humanity, there is one special person whose name is Methuselah. Methuselah lived the longest among humans, living 969 years; he was Enoch's son. Methuselah's name means “when he dies, something great will happen.” What great thing? God would send the flood to destroy humanity. Although God purposed and knew He must do this, in God's forbearance and grace,

He endured again and again. Therefore, He let Methuselah live the longest among humans. When Enoch begot Methuselah, he named him Methuselah, saying, when he dies, something great will happen. Therefore, Enoch knew that one day God would come to judge.

Genesis 5:21 specially mentions that Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. After Enoch begot Methuselah, he walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. Enoch is the first person in all humanity to be raptured. After begetting Methuselah, knowing God's judgment would come, he dared not live carelessly anymore; he very carefully walked with God every day, and walked with God for three hundred years. During these three hundred years, he lived like others, having sons and daughters, dealing with milk bottles, diapers, and all kinds of household affairs; he still lived a perfect life. Therefore, God took him, without passing through death.

When one day Methuselah died, it was exactly when Noah was six hundred years old; the flood came. God, through the flood, judged all the sins of the previous ten generations of humanity, and left Noah's family of eight to start anew on earth, multiplying. Noah's three sons—Shem, Ham, and Japheth—were respectively the ancestors of Asians, Africans, and Europeans. Then from Noah to Abraham, in Shem's line, another ten generations passed.

After humanity received the lesson of the flood, they still fell the same way, but God is still full of grace and gave humanity another ten generations. Ten among humans is the number of completeness, and in these ten generations, people built the tower of Babel to make a name for themselves; this tower of Babel was humanity's collective rebellion against God. Therefore, God came in and confused their language; people began to scatter and dwell in different cities. Thus, after ten generations, God finally chose one man from this created race to become the called race; this man is Abraham, and He began anew His salvation.

Therefore, from the first ancestor of humanity, Adam, to Abraham, there were two sets of ten generations; these two sets of ten generations clearly tell us that humanity is fallen, generation after generation worse than the last. Ultimately, when it reached an irredeemable state, God came in to do something new: God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in heaven and the sand by the seashore, and all nations would be blessed through him. Since this beautiful promise, fourteen generations began. Fourteen is 7×2 ; two in the Bible is bearing witness—God and man together bearing witness; seven is $3+4$, three is the Triune God, four is all created things; God plus created things is completeness in time. Therefore, from Abraham to David there are fourteen generations.

In these fourteen generations, God brought forth a king after His own heart, David. Then from David came Jesus Christ; in name, Joseph's line is the royal line; from another line, Nathan's line, Mary was produced, and Mary is the woman of the "seed of the woman" promised by God in the Old Testament. Mary, through her obedience, conceived by the Holy Spirit and gave birth to Jesus.

Luke specially records the genealogy of Jesus Christ, pushing it backward, all the way to Adam. Every generation has a person; every generation has a complete record. And finally, Luke adds one sentence: "Adam, the son of God." Adam was created by God and is certainly God's son, but Adam sinned and lost the position of God's son. Therefore, Jesus Christ is the seed of the woman promised by God in Genesis chapter 3; He became the last Adam. What Adam lost through sin, through this last Adam, Jesus Christ, God opened a door of grace for us. This group under the dominion of sin, bound by the law—all Adam's descendants—can, through Jesus Christ the last Adam, regain the position of God's sons. Here we not only see God's grace but also the mystery of God's will. Therefore, we cannot but bow before God; on one hand praising God's great love for us, on the other hand marveling at the depth and unsearchable nature of God's wisdom. May every one of us humble ourselves before God to receive His grace.

Let us pray together: Lord, we truly want to use Paul's prayer in Romans to praise You. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to Him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen!"