

An Aerial View of the New Testament



The Genealogies of Jesus

- Matt. 1:1-17; Luke 3:23b-38
- Significant differences
 - Luke goes back to Adam.
 - Matthew goes back to Abraham.
 - The greatest issue: the generations from David to Christ
 - The names are greatly different.
 - The number of generations.
- Solution: from David, they are different genealogies.

The Curse on Jeconiah

- Problem: Jeconiah
- The legal right to David's throne was to pass through Solomon (2 Sam. 7:12-13).
- But one of Solomon's descendants was a man named Jeconiah.
- Because of his sin, God said that none of Jeconiah's physical descendants would prosper on the throne of David (Jer. 22:30).

The Genealogies of Jesus

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 1:1-17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The genealogy of Jesus – Through Joseph, His legal father – Through David's son, Solomon – Includes Jeconiah (& the curse) – The <u>legal</u> claim to the throne passed to Jesus through Joseph. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke 3:23b-38 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The genealogy of Jesus – Through Mary, His physical mother – Through David's son, Nathan – Excludes Jeconiah (& the curse) – The <u>physical</u> claim to the throne passed to Jesus through Mary. |
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The Birth of Jesus

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 1:18ff • Most men married before 20 • Most girls betrothed just after puberty, at 13-15. • A first-century Jewish marriage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1) The betrothal period—the <i>kiddushin</i> – 2) The <i>huppah</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The man went to the home of his wife. • He brought her back to his home to live. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph's three options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 1) Marry her – 2) Disgrace her <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A public accusation in court – 3) Send her away secretly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divorce her • Luke 2:1-20 – the specific events surrounding the actual birth in Bethlehem |
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The Infancy & Youth of Jesus Christ



At 8 days – His circumcision (Dec. 6 BC – Jan. 5 BC)

- Luke 2:21 – when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was *then* called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.
 - A ceremony attended by family and close friends.
 - The occasion at which the name was typically announced (cf. Luke 1:59).
 - *Jesus (Iesous)*
 - transliterated form of the Hebrew name *Joshua (Yeshua)*
 - means "YHWH is Salvation" or "YHWH saves"
 - Cf. Matt. 1:21 - "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

40 days – Jesus presented at the Temple

- About 6 miles from Bethlehem to Jerusalem
- Luke 2:22-38
 - The offering was to be of a lamb and a dove or pigeon.
 - But if she could not afford a lamb, the law allowed her to substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons (Lev. 12:8).
 - Apparently, Joseph and Mary, like most young couples starting out were not wealthy.
 - But they did have some family property.
 - It was probably a middle-class home by the time Jesus reached adulthood.

After 40 days – Return to Nazareth (Winter 5 BC)

- Luke 2:39 - When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.
 - Unclear whether after the Wise Men and the flight to Egypt or before
 - Seems to imply that after they had presented Jesus at the Temple, they returned to Nazareth
 - If that's right, their purpose was to collect their things and move to Bethlehem.
 - Because the next time we find them, it's living in a house in Bethlehem.

Between 40 days and 2 years – the Visit of the Magi (February 5 BC – April 4, 4 BC)

- Matt. 2:1-12

Between 40 days and 2 years – the flight into Egypt (5-3 BC)

- Matt. 2:13-18
- Likely fewer than 20 infants were killed.
- "The Massacre of the Innocents"
- Egypt
 - cosmopolitan
 - accountable directly to the Emperor
 - no Roman governor
- Alexandria
 - the second largest city in the empire
 - a large community of Jews
 - possible that's where they settled
- Their support?
 - Joseph's trade
 - Sold the gifts of the Magi



Around 18 months later (after April 4, 4 BC)

- Three significant events
 - The death of Herod
 - The return from Egypt
 - A new home in Nazareth
- Matt. 2:19-23
- Planned to live in Bethlehem
- Two things change his mind:
 - Archelaus was reigning over Judea in the place of his father, Herod
 - God warned him in a dream
- Joseph takes his belongings from Nazareth.
- His family settles in Nazareth in Galilee.
- Nazareth in Jesus' day:
 - Not a chief city
 - Always called a *polis*; never a *village*
 - Lacked a good reputation with the culturally sophisticated of Judea.
 - John 1:46 – Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."
 - Secluded
 - It wasn't on a main road.
 - A trade route passed just south of it.
 - But centrally located
 - It was 15 miles west of the Sea of Galilee.
 - And about 20 east of the Mediterranean.
 - A synagogue

Jesus' Childhood

- Luke 2:40 – The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.
- Only NT verse about Jesus' childhood.

Jesus' Education

- Edersheim: "There is a passage in the Mishnah (*Aboth*. 5. 21), which quaintly maps out and, as it were, labels the different periods of life according to their characteristics. It is worth reproducing, if only to serve as introduction to what we shall have to say on the upbringing of children. Rabbi Jehudah, the son of Tema, says: "At five years of age, reading of the Bible; at ten years, learning the Mishnah; at thirteen years bound to the commandments; at fifteen years, the study of the Talmud; at eighteen years, marriage; at twenty, the pursuit of trade or business (active life); at thirty years, full vigor; at forty, maturity of reason; at fifty, for counsel; at sixty, commencement of agedness; at seventy, grey age; at eighty, advanced old age; at ninety, bowed down; at a hundred, as if he were dead and gone, and taken from the world." In the passage just quoted the age of five is mentioned as that when a child is expected to commence reading the Bible—of course, in the original Hebrew. ^[1]

Jesus' Education

- Edersheim: "Every place, then, which numbered twenty-five boys of a suitable age, or, according to Maimonides, one hundred and twenty families, was bound to appoint a schoolmaster. More than twenty-five pupils or thereabouts he was not allowed to teach in a class. If there were forty, he had to employ an assistant; if fifty, the synagogue authorities appointed two teachers. This will enable us to understand the statement, no doubt greatly exaggerated, that at the destruction of Jerusalem there were no fewer than four hundred and eighty schools in the metropolis." ^[1]

^[1]Edersheim, A. (2003). *Sketches of Jewish social life in the days of Christ*. (135).

Jesus' Education

- For 4 years, the OT in Hebrew was the only textbook.
- The 1st book: Leviticus
- Learned 3 languages:
 - Aramaic
 - When the Jews returned from the 70-year captivity, they came speaking the language spoken by the Persians.
 - Hebrew
 - Luke 4:16 – Jesus read from the scroll in the synagogue, probably in Hebrew.
 - Greek
 - In John 21, Jesus uses two different Greek words for *love*, and Peter uses two different words for *know*.
 - That interchange doesn't work in either Aramaic or Hebrew.
 - Matt. 16:18 – Jesus speaks using a word play on the Greek words *petra*, *petros*.

At 12 years~ 1st Passover in Jerusalem (7 AD)

- Luke 2:41-50
 - Jesus was 12 years old.
 - At 13
 - the celebration of his Bar Mitzvah
 - "a son of the commandment"
 - An adult
 - Most Jewish boys went to their first Passover celebration at the Temple at the age of 12
 - First words of Jesus
 - 2:49 - And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"
 - Intentional contrast between "your father and I" and "My father"
 - At 12, Jesus had a clear sense of who He was and of His mission.

From 12-30 years~ Adolescence & Young Manhood (7 AD–26 AD)

- Luke 2:51-52 - He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart. 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.
 - Summarizes what transpired during those 18 years.

From 12 ~ 30 Years

- 1) Studied the law of God
 - Attended worship on the Sabbath
 - Likely, the family had a copy or partial copy of the Scripture.
 - There were complete copies of the Scripture in the local synagogue.



From 12-30 Years

- 2) Practiced a trade
 - His father, Joseph
 - Matt. 13:55 – "Is not this the carpenter's son?"
 - Jesus
 - Mark 6:3 – "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary.
 - Carpenter, literally means "a craftsman"
 - Greek word is broad, like the English word, builder
 - Can include carpenter, mason, or woodworking
 - Justin Martyr, who lived shortly after John's death, wrote: "when He was among men He made ploughs and yokes and other farm implements."

From 12-30 Years

- 3) Annually He would have made the trek to the Temple for the three annual feasts.
 - Ex. 23:14-17; Deut. 16:16-17



From 12-30 Years

- 4) His family life
 - Cf. Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3 – "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.
 - Four brothers listed & sisters (plural)
 - So Jesus grew up in a family of at least 7

Brothers & Sisters?

- 1) Cousins (Jerome)
 - Roman Catholic position
 - But Greek has a word for *cousin*; NT writers chose not to use.
 - Greek word *brother* is never used to designate a cousin

Brothers & Sisters?

- 2) Joseph's children by a previous marriage
 - Jesus was the youngest in the family.
 - Jesus was the only child of Joseph & Mary.
 - This solution originally proposed to protect the concept of the perpetual virginity of Mary.
 - Problems:
 - No mention of this in Scripture
 - Erases Jesus claim to the throne; he wasn't the firstborn.
 - Doesn't match the NT picture:
 - Boys are always tagging along with their mother (Gospels)
 - Later described as having wives (1 Cor. 9:5)
 - Implication: they were younger than Jesus, not older.

Brothers & Sisters?

- 3) Children were born to Mary and Joseph after Jesus
 - Matt. 1:18 – “before [Joseph & Mary] came together she was found to be with child”
 - Matt. 1:25 – “[Joseph] kept her a virgin until she gave birth”
 - Luke 2:7 – Jesus is called “her first-born son”; implies there were other children that followed.

Jesus' Family Life

- Several other implications of Mark 6:3: "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.
 - (1) Joseph had died.
 - (2) Jesus had taken over the family business: “the carpenter.”
 - (3) Jesus led the family.

Jesus' Family Life

- (4) Jesus' siblings rejected His claims.
 - They thought he was crazy ([Mark 3:21](#)).
 - [Mark 3:31-35](#); cf. Matt. 12:46-50; Luke 8:19-21
 - John 7:1-9
 - 7:5 – “for not even his brothers were believing on him.”

The Thirty Silent Years

- 1) To set an example for us.
- 2) To live the life we should have lived.
 - 2 Cor. 5:21 - He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.