

### **Lk. 3:21-38 (LD 14) "A Truly Human Birth"**

**For the Children:** Some children have no father now, because he has died. Some children do not know who their father was, because he left the family early on. But in all history, there are only two men who were born without having any father but God: Adam, and Jesus. Adam was made by God, when He breathed life into the dust that He had made from nothing. Adam was only a man. Jesus has a divine Nature, which has always existed. About 2,000 years ago, the Holy Spirit enabled Mary to have a baby without any Father but God. But Jesus was not just a man made by God. Unlike Adam, He also had a human mother. He is both God and man. That is how He is able to save us from our sins. **Questions:** Why is it important to know who Jesus' ancestors were? How does Luke tell us He is also God? Why do some people want to pretend that Jesus' birth was very ordinary?

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#### **Introduction:**

##### **First Point: The Supposed Son of Joseph**

- 1) **Mary's Son:** Jesus is called the "supposed" son of Joseph in v. 23. This implies that Joseph was not His biological father. Jesus took His human nature from Mary, not Joseph (LD 14). He is said to have been about 30 years old at the time He began His public ministry: this, too, implies His birth at a particular point.
- 2) **The Ancestors:** In contrast to Melchizedek, Jesus' ancestors are recorded. This implies a real human nature. There is some dispute about whether Matthew and Luke are giving their genealogies through Joseph's or Mary's lines. Either way, He was legally connected to Joseph's line and biologically connected to Mary's.
- 3) **The Son of David, Abraham and Adam:** The Lord Jesus is shown here to have a legal right to the Messianic Kingship through his ancestor, David. The prophecies about David's greater Son are about Him. He is also a true Jew, descended from Abraham – a requirement for the Great Prophet (Dt. 18:15). He is a "son of Adam" (v. 38), a member of the human race come to save men from every nation – a point Luke is making for his Gentile readers.
- 4) **The Son of God:** V. 38 also ends by stating that Adam was the "son of God." So, therefore is Jesus, in His human nature, as a descendant of Adam. Adam was directly made by God, with no human father. Jesus' human nature came into the world through the Holy Spirit's direct, supernatural activity upon Mary – His "overshadowing." Like Adam before the Fall, Jesus has a perfect human nature.

##### **Second Point: The Beloved Son of God**

- 1) **God the Son:** However, He is also "Son of God" in an even greater way. In v. 22 God says to Jesus, "You are THE Son of Me," not "a son." God literally says that He "was" well-pleased with Him. Some say this is referring to the Father's pleasure with His Son's willingness, in eternity, to come as Messiah.
- 2) **Accepting the Messianic Calling:** At the start of His public ministry, Jesus shows His acceptance of His Messianic calling. He comes to be baptized by John – not because He needed to repent of His sins; but to identify with sinners who needed Him for their salvation.
- 3) **Re-Assured by the Father:** The Father assures Him of His acceptance and support by speaking from heaven, stating His pleasure in His only-begotten Son.
- 4) **Equipped by the Spirit:** The Spirit shows His acceptance and support by symbolizing His equipping of Jesus' human nature for the office of Messiah – by descending upon Him like a dove. This is a "Trinitarian" anointing ceremony for the Great Prophet, Priest and King.
- 5) **What Is at Stake:** To deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ would be to undermine His real humanity, His ability to identify with sinners and represent them, to live, obey God, die and rise for sinners; and to receive help from the Spirit. His Mediatorial work and our salvation is at stake! No wonder Satan wants to make His birth more ordinary!

#### **Conclusion:**