

The Revelation of God's Glory

*A Sermon Preached By
Dr. Ron Baity*

Berean Baptist Church
4135 Thomasville Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
(336) 785-0527
www.wpipbereanradio.org

March 15, 2005

I have noted that very few in our movement are making printed sermons available to the public. I am endeavoring to publish one sermon per month and hope that they will prove to be a blessing to someone along the journey of life. These sermons were first preached in the auditorium of Berean Baptist Church to our dear people. I am grateful to these dear people for allowing me to be their Pastor.

I am indeed thankful to my wife, Linda Baity, for encouraging me to put these sermons in print.

I am also thankful for my secretary, Mrs. Lisa Shutt, and the many hours she spent typing, correcting and retyping these pages.

"The weakest and unworthiest of human instrumentalities can sow the seed, Gods Word. The life is not in the sower, but in the seed." (Walter B. Knight)

Dr. Ronnie L. Baity
Berean Baptist Church
4135 Thomasville Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27107
336-785-0527

Web Address: www.wpipbereanradio.org

Email Address: RBaity4520@aol.com

Ministries of Berean Baptist Church include:

Radio Station WPIP
Streaming Audio and Video
Television Ministry
Bus Ministry
Christian School
Soul Winning
Missions
Ladies Missionary Auxiliary
Graded Sunday School
Proverbs For Youth
Rest Home Ministry
Spanish Ministry
Preaching

Copyright © 2005 by Ronnie L. Baity. All rights reserved.

If you have your Bibles today, would you join me in the Old Testament in the book of Ezekiel? I have been talking to us about Christ and Christmas and I want to continue with that theme. You might be asking the question, “What in the world does the book of Ezekiel have to do with Christ and Christmas?” I’m going to show you here if you will just stay tuned. I have some scriptures I want you to see and I want you to follow me in your Bible. Let’s begin in the eighth chapter then we will go over to the tenth chapter of the book of Ezekiel.

God’s Glory To Israel

One of the things that set Israel apart in the Bible was that God manifested Himself to them and not to other nations. God manifested His glory to the nation of Israel. You see that up on the mount where Moses is receiving the law. God came down on that mount in His Shekinah glory. The Bible says that the mountain actually looked like it was ablaze. It was on fire and a great smoke ascended up from that mountain. The Bible says that it was so holy that even if an animal touched the base of the mountain it would be killed. You see that glory and holiness of God again when Moses is tending to the sheep. He noticed there was a bush ablaze but not being consumed. He moves toward the bush. God begins to speak to him as the Great I AM. Eventually, God gave to Moses all of the definition and dimensions of the Tabernacle. Contained in the Tabernacle was the Holy of Holies. On the great Day of Atonement God would come down and make Himself known to the High Priest. Not to the people of Israel, but to the High Priest alone. On that great Day of Atonement, he (the High Priest) would take the blood into the Holy Place and apply it over the Ark of the Covenant. Down inside of that little chest there was a copy of the broken law which man could not keep. As long as the blood was applied, God would spare His judgment from judging the people. Nobody understands, nobody realizes what a sacred moment that was when the High Priest pulled that huge veil and entered within. Historians teach us that two teams of oxen hooked to opposite ends of the veil could not tear the veil in two. On that great Day of Atonement, the High Priest would take the blood and apply the blood over that broken law. The word Atonement began to come in place, which means “a covering”. If you divide the word up it meant that God was at one-ment (Atonement) with His people. God chose not to judge

His people for another year. That blood never did take away sin, but it did give a momentary covering for sin. I would image that the High Priest walked in there in fear and trembling. But, I would also like to imagine that as he walked into that Holy place, he must have walked in there saying to himself, I will get to step one more time into the presence of God.

Later on, God gave Solomon the beautiful Temple. David wasn't able to build the Temple of course because he was a man of war. But Solomon was able to consummate the building of the Temple. When they had the dedication service, once again, the glory of God that appeared up on the mount and in the burning bush, came down into that Temple. The Bible said that God's glory was so great that the Priest could not minister there. What a glorious day that was. What a blessing it was to be of the Hebrew race. What a blessing it was to be that particular group of people through whom God would manifest His glory and they would see a portion of His eternity. But, as the years began to transpire, some dangerous things happened. The nation of Israel got accustomed to the glory of God and the goodness of God. The nation of Israel was prone to go away from the love of God. They began to turn and walk according to the neighbors around them and according to the course of the world. They went into idolatry. They began to commit spiritual fornication and spiritual adultery against their creator, who had chosen to reveal His holiness and power to them.

The Glory Departs

We have an illustration of that in the book of Ezekiel chapter 8 where Ezekiel was allowed to look inside the Holy Place. As he looks inside of the Holy Place, in Ezekiel 8:10, he sees the idols of the house of Israel portrayed upon the wall. Notice what is happening in verse 12. These leaders, these ancients of the House of Israel, supposedly the spiritual leaders of Israel are going into these recesses of the Holy Place. They are actually worshipping animals and drawings of animals on the walls of that building. Please notice, they are going out and ministering the spiritual needs of the people of Israel. They are going out and approaching the people of Israel in the name of Jehovah God. When they leave them, they go back into the chambers of their imagery where they are bowing down and worshipping four footed animals and drawings on the wall. They have become idolaters behind the scene. As if that is not enough, Ezekiel gets a picture

of a god that these so called ancients of the house of Israel are worshipping. “And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord’s house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs towards the temple of Lord, and their faces toward the east. They worshipped the sun towards the east.”(Ezekiel 8:16) Can you see this picture? Here is a group of people who have known what it means to have the blessings, the goodness, the provisions, and the glory of God. The leaders of that nation have chosen to turn their back upon all of that. They are in the chambers of their imagery, worshipping drawings on the wall, the sun itself, and they have completely abandoned Jehovah God and His glory. As a result, God begins to withdraw His glory from the nation of Israel. In Ezekiel 10:4, Ezekiel notices something happening, “Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory.” Here is the picture. Because of the idolatry of the people God is saying, “*My glory will no longer saturate this place. I’m going to withdraw my glory. I’m going to remove my presence from this place.*” The Bible said that the glory of God moved from the Holy Place out to the threshold of the door and then it stops there for a moment of time. Notice what happens secondly. The Bible says, “*Then the glory of the Lord departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim’s*” (Ezekiel 10:18) The cherubim’s were moving, “*And the cherubim’s lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the east gate of the Lord’s house;*” (Ezekiel 10:19). The glory of the Lord is moving from the Holy Place. It goes to the threshold of the door, follows the cherubim to the east gate, to the east door. Then a tragic thing happens. In Ezekiel 11:23, the Bible says, “*And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city, and stood upon the mountain which is on the east side of the city.*” This is very interesting because Ezekiel 11:23 is a description of the place that we call the Mount of Olives. Notice what is happening. The people have turned their back upon the glory of God and now the glory has left the place where God chose to meet with His people. It went from the threshold, from the gate, to a mountain, outside of the city. It is outside of the place where God chose to meet with His people. It goes up to the east of the city, to the place we know as the Mount of Olives. Now think about

this for just a moment. That does not mean that these Priests do not continue to go through the ritualistic worship service. The Bible is very clear that for ages, these people would supposedly represent God before the people and the people before God. However, something is different now. Guess what's missing now. Although they may go into the Holy Place and into the House of God to worship, God's presence is no longer there. Because of the idolatry, and their sin, God has chosen to withdraw Himself from the House of God. Now as they go into the Holy of Holies, they find darkness and the light has gone out and the room is empty, because God is no longer with them. There is no glory, no power and no God in there any longer. Ichobod, according to the book of Samuel, has been written over this place because God's glory has departed. Many years later, after they go into Babylonian Captivity, at the prayer and request of the people, God allows a remnant to come back to the city. Once again, according to the books of Haggai, Joel, Jeremiah and some of the other Old Testament prophets, they go back and begin to rebuild the House of God. There is something very interesting that takes place when they go back and rebuild the House of God. I want you to notice the setting Haggai 2:3. The people have been permitted to go back and begin to rebuild the House of God. Notice in Haggai 2:3, Haggai says, "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory?" Here is a group of people coming back after the Babylonian captivity. They are beginning to build again the house of God. But, discouragement sets in, because the people that are in the process of rebuilding this wonderful structure do not have the gold, the silver, the craftsmen, the money, or the finances that Solomon had. As they build this little structure, they are thinking about the beauty and glories of Solomon's Temple. They're saying among themselves, "What we're doing amounts to absolutely nothing. It is nothing compared to what Solomon did." And so they begin to make the comparison. In Haggai 2:3 they said, "Who is there among you that saw this house in her first glory? And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?" Notice what God said unto them in verse 7, "*And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of Hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of Hosts.*" God says to this group of people, "*The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of hosts.*" (Haggai 2:9) God is

saying I want you to understand that you are not to despise the day of small things. God said I want you to understand something, that this house you are now building, this Temple that you are now erecting, will be greater than the Temple of Solomon. The glory of this latter house you are now building, even though, you don't have the materials, the man power, the wealth, the wherewithal, the glory of this later house is going to be greater than that of Solomon's Temple. They must have said among themselves, "How in the world can that be?" "How can this house be greater than Solomon's Temple?" We do not have the facilities that he had; we don't have the people that he had. Yet, God is saying, that this place is going to be greater than Solomon's Temple. Let me tell you what made this temple greater than Solomon's Temple. The Bible says that one day Jesus Christ came to town and walked into the Temple that was a continuation of this Temple. He cleansed it in the name of the Father. He overturned the tables of the money exchangers. He took a whip and drove those people out and claimed that house in the name of His Father. He said this house shall be called the House of Prayer but you have made it a den of thieves. What was it that made this latter house greater than the former house? It was the fact that in Solomon's Temple the Shekinah glory came down and saturated that building. The Priests could not minister because of the presence of God. This temple was greater because Jesus Christ 2000 years ago walked into it not in the Shekinah glory, but as the God-man Christ Jesus. The presence of God walking into that temple in the person of Jesus Christ would make the latter house a greater place than the place of Solomon. I want you to understand something folks, there is glory saturated with Jesus Christ. The Bible says that for 400 years since God's glory went to the threshold, then to the eastern gate, then up on the mount, and departed, the glory of God no longer has been seen. A remnant went back trying to rebuild, but God was not there. They are going through worship in a mechanical life style, but God's presence and God's power and God's glory has been withdrawn and withheld because of their sins. 400 years has gone by and there's not been any word from Heaven. Heaven has been silent. Heaven is as if it were brass. For 400 years no prophet is preaching, no revelation is given.

The Glory Returns

400 years later, shepherds are out in the field tending their sheep by night when all of a sudden the glory of the Lord appeared. The Bible says in Luke 2:9, “And lo the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid.” Now for the first time in over 400 years, the glory of God has come back to planet earth. He met some shepherds in the field. *“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”*(Luke 2:13-14). Look at verse 14, the glory has come back again. After 400 years the glory has arrived. God’s glory was getting ready to come back to planet earth for the first time in over 400 years. This time it would not be the type of glory that saturated the temple and the burning bush. But this time it would be God personally visiting planet earth in a little virgin’s womb. God would come to visit humanity and bring His glory personally to the human race. Jesus Christ is the greatest person that has ever lived. There has never been anybody like Jesus Christ. There’s nobody that we can compare to Jesus Christ or comes up to the stature of Jesus Christ. There’s nobody that can say the things that Jesus Christ said. There’s nobody that can do the things that Jesus Christ did. There’s nobody that can accomplish what Jesus Christ accomplished. Christmas is a recognition that 2000 years ago God came back in glory and chose to visit the human race.

Jesus Christ walked one day by the coast of Caesarea of Philippi and looked at Peter and His disciples and said, *“Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man am? And they said, Some say thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, blessed art thou, Simon Barjonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in the heaven.”*(Matthew 16:13b-17) He said Peter wait a minute, you didn’t get that by natural revelation, but by divine revelation. My Father has taught you that standing in your presence is the very glory of God. The God of all of eternity, the ancient of days, the root and the offspring of David, the bright and the morning star, the alpha and omega, the one that inhabited eternity was

standing in the presence of those disciples. Those followers noted that He was standing there as God's revelation of His divine glory. There is nobody like Jesus Christ.

Years ago, a man appeared in the streets of Chicago. He claimed to be the messiah. He claimed to be the Christ. As a matter of fact, he had a group of about 100 people following him around everywhere he went. A few people got upset. He paraded up and down the streets of Chicago and he said look me over, I'm the messiah. The Salvation Army had asked Fanny Crosby, the blind hymn writer if she would volunteer to write a song for them. Fanny Crosby was shocked, and utterly dismayed that someone would have the gall and audacity, to come out in public, walk up and down the streets of that city and claim to be the messiah. She got a pen and a piece of paper and sat down and wrote that beautiful song that we still sing today, "I Shall Know Him." She said in that song, "I shall know Him, I shall know Him, by the prints of the nails in His hand." That afternoon, the Salvation Army, standing on the street corner in Chicago, for the first time sang Fanny Crosby's song, "I shall know Him; I shall know Him, by the prints of the nails in His hands." Someone in the crowd got raptured by the words of that song. About that time the false messiah came down the street of Chicago. One of those people who had just about enough of this false messiah, ran out of that crowd, went over to that false messiah and got hold of his hands. He held them up and said as loud as his voice would allow him to say, "There's no nail prints in your hands, you are a fake!"

The Messiah, the one that brought God's glory to this earth, still has the marks of the slaughter in his body. He still has the nail prints in His hands. He still has the place in His side. It will be there for all of eternity to remind you and me and the church of the price that was paid on Golgotha's hill to deliver us from our sins and ultimately allow us to walk down the streets of glory.

The Genealogy Of Jesus

Let's look at it for just a minute. What a Saviour, what a lovely Lord. I want to show you something about the genealogy of our Saviour. You're talking about a genealogy; you are talking about God moving in history. The glory which left that Old Testament structure for 400 years came back in the person of Jesus Christ, as the angels announced. I want you to notice first of all the pedigree of Christ in Matthew 1:1. Here is

a verse of scripture that ties the entire Bible together. The reason it ties the Bible together is because of what is stated in this verse. Notice the Bible says that this is, “*The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David the son of Abraham.*” That is important because God made some promises to both Abraham and David. God make some messianic promises to those men. If those promises do not find their fulfillment, then God would be found to be untruthful. The Messiah that would eventually come on this earth would have to have ties both to Abraham and David to qualify to be the Messiah. Eternity is going to be a time of worshipping and praising the King in all of His glory. Some people will be out of place and utterly upset in Heaven if they can’t get ESPN or “I Love Lucy”. Let me tell you Heaven is not about Lucy, it’s about the King of Kings and all of His glory. That’s what our future is all about. I wish I had time to take the Old Testament and show you how it connects to the New Testament. I could work here for an hour or two and I wouldn’t be able to say it better than Matthew 1:1 because he is telling us that whatever happened in the Old Testament is still continuing because there were some promises made to Abraham. God told Abraham in the 12th and 22nd chapter of Genesis that he would have a seed and through that seed all the nations of the world would eventually be blessed. Paul in the book of Galatians identifies that seed as none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal God. Who among us today would stand up and say something like this, “We’ve not been blessed through Jesus Christ.” The truth is the whole world has been blessed and continues to be blessed through Jesus Christ because that’s what God said about Abraham’s seed. The Bible said that the world would be touched through the influence of His seed. You think about the hospitals and old folks homes that have been erected in the name of Jesus. Think about all of the food and the clothing provided across the world, and the missions around the world. Think about the blessings of God around the world that come to us through Jesus Christ. The world, even the world of unbelievers, has profited from the fact that Jesus Christ has visited this earth. In the Old Testament, God said to Abraham, you are going to have a son to whom the world will be blessed. God also said to David, in the book of Psalm 89:4, “*Thy seed will I establish for ever*”. God said about the throne of David that eventually he would have a son and that’s what the angels said in the gospel of Luke chapter 2 that he would receive the throne of his father David. The promises made in the Old Testament to Abraham and

David would ultimately find their fulfillment in the Messiah and the Messiah is identified in Matthew 1:1. It ties the New Testament and the Old Testament together when it says, *“This is the book of the generation of Jesus Christ.”* He’s the Messiah because He is the son of David to fulfill the promises given David and He’s the son of Abraham to fulfill the promises given Abraham.

You see up until A.D. 70, when Titus came through Jerusalem and utterly destroyed the House of God, the city and the walls of the city, every Jew could go to the House of God where the records of genealogy were contained. Do you understand today that no Jew can go anywhere in the world and find out which tribe they belong to? All of that information was destroyed in A.D. 70 when Titus, the Roman Emperor came through and destroyed all of the records in the temple. That was the place where they were all contained and kept until that time. If the people, especially the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Religious Leaders and the Political Leaders, had chosen to do so, they could have gone to the temple and checked the pedigree of Jesus Christ. They could have tied Jesus Christ to the Old Testament prophets and to Abraham and to David because His genealogy was there. But, all of that was destroyed. There is only one person that’s of such magnitude and He is King, Jesus! He has the genealogical record today that can trace Him back to Abraham and David. That record is traced through the Word of God which is forever settled in Heaven. There are no records in Jerusalem, but we’ve got the record before us today in the Word of God that says that Jesus Christ is the Messiah through both David and Abraham. The Word of God is true.

Let us look at these genealogies. I want you to keep your Bible available. I want to show you something and I hope this will help you. Two of the New Testament writers give us the genealogy of Jesus. That is Matthew and Luke. Mark doesn’t give us the genealogy. Mark says that He is the Son of God by the miracles He did. Two important words in Mark are the words immediately and straightway. Mark said, I want you to know that Jesus is the Son of God and I’m going to prove to you He is the Son of God by the things He did. John said I want you to know He is the Son of God, not by His genealogy of man, but by His genealogy of God, *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”* (John 1:1) Immediately John connects Jesus, not with an earthly person, but with eternity. Now Matthew and Luke give the

earthly genealogy of Jesus and how He relates to Abraham and David. How He relates to Adam is very interesting.

Jesus Is Unique

I just want to stop here a minute and talk about Jesus. There is just nobody like Him! Just like you use to talk about your girlfriend or boyfriend before you got married, so now you should desire to talk about the wonders of Jesus. Let me remind you that Jesus ought to be the one you want to talk about. He's great, because in Matthew he says this is the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, and the son of Abraham. Listen, Solomon was a great man; he was the wisest man that ever lived outside of Jesus Christ. But, Jesus said one greater than Solomon is here. Jesus had more wisdom than Solomon because Jesus gave Solomon his wisdom. Jesus has more riches than Solomon because Jesus gave Solomon his riches. Jesus is greater than Abraham. Abraham rejoiced, the Bible says in the gospel of John, to see the day of Jesus. Samson was a man with a lot of power, but he messed up. Jesus never messed up. Think about it. Jesus was richer than David. He's the lily of the valley. No other lily has the purity of Jesus Christ. I want you to understand something, Jesus is the bright and morning star and no other star has the brilliance of my Saviour. Jesus is the rock of ages and no other rock has the solidity of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the bread of life and no other bread has the flavor that Jesus has. Jesus is the light of the world and no other light has the brightness of Jesus Christ. Why? Because in Him dwelleth all of the fullness of the God head bodily and the Shekinah glory of God resides in Him. Jesus Christ is the true shepherd and no other shepherd has the tenderness of Jesus Christ. I read about the man that Jesus touched one day in the temple. He was blind and Jesus touched him and he received his sight. The Bible said that they threw him out and when Jesus heard that, He went and He took him in. Jesus has tenderness. By the way, as a teenage boy, Jesus took me in and if you're saved, Jesus took you in. That is something to be thankful for. Nobody has the tenderness that Jesus has for us. Jesus Christ is the redeemer of mankind. There is no other redeemer with His grace. Jesus Christ is the potentate of Heaven and there is no other potentate that has the power that Jesus has. We live in the strongest nation militarily in the world. I'm glad for our men, I'm glad for our weaponry, I'm glad for our technology, I'm glad for all the things this nation possesses. Take all of the bombs, all the hydrogen bombs, all the

atomic bombs, all the fire power of this world and it doesn't amount to a firecracker compared to the power of an omnipotent God. Jesus Christ is the refuge of our souls and there is no other refuge for safety other than Him. The good news is you don't need anybody else but Jesus Christ. He is the sufficient refuge. Jesus Christ is the rewarder of the faithful and there is no other person that can reward you like Jesus can. Jesus is the Saviour of the world and there is no other Saviour other than Jesus Christ. Allah does not save, Mohammed does not save, Jesus Christ said, "*I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life and no man cometh unto the Father except by me.*" (John 14:6) When Jesus Christ spoke, it was God speaking. When Jesus Christ walked, it was God walking. When Jesus Christ worked, it was God working. When Jesus Christ suffered, it was God suffering. When Jesus Christ died, it was God dying. And when Jesus Christ got up on the third day, He was God getting up from the dead. The Bible says in Romans 1:4 that He was "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." I'm here to tell you Jesus is some kind of a Saviour. Do you love Him? Do you really love Him?

Genealogy Proves His Messiahship

I want you to notice in Matthew 1:1, the genealogy of Jesus. His genealogy is traced in Matthew 1:1 through Joseph. Matthew begins in the first chapter and gives us the genealogy of Jesus through Joseph His stepfather. But Luke doesn't operate that way. Luke waits until he gets to the third chapter. Luke has already talked about the birth of Jesus, the boyhood of Jesus, the baptism of Jesus and then at that point, Dr. Luke chooses to give us the genealogy of Jesus. Notice what happens in Luke 3:21-22. Jesus comes to John to be baptized. Do you know what John said about Jesus Christ? John was born six months before Jesus but he said, "*there cometh one who was preferred before me.*" You say, well is John's testimony of any verity? Let's ask Jesus what he thinks of John. Jesus said of John. That of them that are born of woman, there has not arisen a greater than John the Baptist. So Jesus said that John the Baptist is great, so we ought to pay attention to what John says. John says there is one that I am not even worthy to get down and undo his shoes, or ties his shoes. But, he said, I want you to know He was before me physically. John was six months older than Jesus. John said He came before I got here.

Then He identified Jesus Christ when he looked at Him one day. He said, "Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." In Luke 3: 21-22 Jesus is being baptized and the Holy Spirit of God descends down upon Jesus. Notice the last part of verse 22. God the father opens up Heaven. Remember Heaven had been closed for 400 years until the announcement of the angels. God says, "*thou art my beloved Son in thee I am well pleased.*" The Father looks at His son and says, "I am well pleased with Him." There is the vocal announcement. God said that person coming up out of the water is my Son. Luke records that the Father gives the vocal announcement that this is "My Son." We have the vocal announcement. Luke now gives the written announcement. Dr. Luke gives the genealogy as God speaks. Dr. Luke gives us the genealogy of Mary. Matthew gives us the genealogy of Joseph. That is very interesting. Now I know when you read verse 23 it says the son of Joseph which was the son of Heli. But, if you will look in your Bible and do your study you will find Heli was not a father, but a father-in-law, a relative of Mary and now we are tracing the genealogy of Mary. In those days father-in-laws were called fathers. And as you look at the genealogy you find in Luke 3 the genealogy of Mary that traces her back in verse 38 to Adam then back to God. In the first Adam we all die. However, when the second Adam came on the scene He gave us life. In other words, Jesus is coming to identify with the first Adam. He is able to come and undo for us what the first Adam did to us. He's in the line of Adam and able to identify with us, to give us life and eventually on the cross of Calvary die for our sins. Matthew and Luke trace the genealogy of Jesus from David down differently. Matthew traces the genealogy of Joseph through Solomon. Luke traces the genealogy of Mary through David's other son Nathan. Why is that? Why would Matthew and Luke get to David and choose from David to come through Solomon and Nathan?

Turn in your Bibles to the book of Jeremiah 22. Here we find a wicked king of Israel. In Jeremiah 22:30, I want you to notice with me, "*Thus saith the Lord, write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.*" Jehoidaim had the curse of God placed on him and Jehoidim was told by God that none of his children would ever sit on the throne of David. In Matthew 1, we are now tracing Joseph's genealogy. Matthew 1:11, "And Josias begat Jechonias," that's Jehoichim that we just

read about in Jeremiah. You find him on Joseph's side as you go through the genealogy on David's side through Solomon. God had said about him that none of his children would ever sit on David's throne. So he's in the genealogy but he's in the genealogy of Joseph. If Jesus had come through Joseph, He would have been disqualified to sit on the throne. God said in Matthew 1:11 about Jechonia, that none of his offspring would ever sit on David's throne. Look with me in Luke 3:31, talking about the genealogy of Mary "*... was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David.*" Now with that in mind, come back to Matthew chapter 1 and notice with me please what is taking place here, Matthew 1:6, "*And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon,*" So Jechoniah came through Solomon and Mary came through Nathan. So the curse in the book of Jeremiah never reached Jesus because Joseph wasn't the father. God is protecting His son, the Messiah. Notice with me in Luke 3:23, "*And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed).*" As you study the Bible it states in the genealogy, he begat, he begat, so and so begat so and so. When you get to the genealogy of Jesus, it doesn't say that Joseph begat Jesus. It just says, "As was supposed". Joseph belonged to the fallen human race and therefore did not qualify to be the father of Jesus. If Joseph had been His father, Jesus would have been disqualified to sit upon the throne. So God had David separate his sons and put Joseph's genealogy through Solomon and Mary's genealogy through Nathan so that Jesus Christ could qualify to sit on the throne. That is the reason the angels said, "*unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*" Jesus qualifies to be the Saviour. Do you know Him? Do you know Him? What a Saviour! Have you ever thought about the price that Jesus paid to save us? Though he was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich.