

December 15th

Advent 2019



—A SEASON OF HOPE—

“I have begotten [children] and reared them but...I do not know whether, in their own generation, they will do well or badly; I cannot even guess whether they will build because of me or in spite of me. I know only that they will build elsewhere, and I have no continuing city here.”

— Robert F. Capon, Bed & Board

“HOPE FOR A FAMILY”

Introduction: Family & the Genealogies of Jesus

- The genealogies in the gospels of Matthew and Luke tend to be matters of either indifference or controversy. When we are willing to spend time considering them, however, we find that they can be very interesting.
- Theologically, the genealogies are extremely important:
 1. The genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17 conveys of the family line of _____.
⇒ *The goal of Matthew’s genealogy is to establish Jesus’ legal right to the throne of David because his gospel presents Jesus as Israel’s Messianic King who has come to fulfill God’s Word through the establishment of the promised Kingdom.*
 2. The genealogy in Luke 3:23-38 conveys the family line of _____.
⇒ *The goal of Luke’s genealogy is to establish Jesus’ true humanity because his gospel presents Jesus as the Messiah who has come to bring salvation to all mankind, beginning with Israel, but expanding to include the gentiles as well.*
- Personally, the genealogies should be of interest to us because they remind us that Jesus was born into family stories that included discouragement and joy, sin and faithfulness, as well as tragedy and blessing.

Key Point: As we consider the genealogies of Jesus, we are reminded that the Lord is at work across _____ and that the incarnation ensures that the sin within our families can be forgiven and the brokenness within them can be redeemed!

Three Generations of Jesus’ Family Considered—Matthew 1:9b-10a

1. Ahaz (742-726 BC) — 2 Chronicles 28:1-28

Some Observations:

- (1) Ahaz’s father (Jotham) and grandfather (Uzziah) were faithful men and he was raised during a time of stability and prosperity.
- (2) Ahaz _____ the faith of his fathers and did evil in the sight of the Lord.
2 Chron. 28:1-4—¹ Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as his father David had done, ² but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals, ³ and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. ⁴ And he sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree.
- (3) His reign was a time of tremendous economic, political, and religious _____.
- (4) His _____ and disdain for the things of God were open and egregious.
2 Chron. 8:24-25—²⁴ And Ahaz gathered together the vessels of the house of God and cut in pieces the vessels of the house of God, and he shut up the doors of the house of the Lord, and he made himself altars in every corner of Jerusalem. ²⁵ In every city of Judah he made high places to make offerings to other gods, provoking to anger the Lord, the God of his fathers.
- (5) Through his rejection of the Lord, he forfeited the _____ that was his by birth.
2 Chron. 28:27—And Ahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city, in Jerusalem, for they did not bring him into the tombs of the kings of Israel. And Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

Key Point: Faithfulness to the Lord is not something that we inherit by birth, rather, it is a matter of the _____ and must be pursued by each individual member of a family.

2. Hezekiah (726-697 BC) — 2 Chron. 29:1-32:33

Some Observations:

- (1) Although Hezekiah was raised during of the turmoil of his father’s reign, he became a _____ man.
2 Chron. 29:2—And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done.

- (2) Much of his life was spent seeking to undo the sinful _____ of his father.

2 Chron. 29:3—In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the Lord and repaired them.

2 Chron. 30:30—And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.

- (3) Although his reign was a time of religious stability, it included significant political turmoil.

- (4) Though he was a faithful man, his sin of _____ brought lasting consequences upon subsequent generations of his family.

Isa. 39:5-8—⁵ Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: ⁶ Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. ⁷ And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.” ⁸ Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The word of the Lord that you have spoken is good.” For he thought, “There will be peace and security in my days.”

Key Point: Although we are influenced by our family upbringing, who we can become is not _____ solely by it because we serve a God who can rescue, redeem, heal, and transform us.

3. Manasseh (697-642 BC)— 2 Chron. 33:1-25

Some Observations:

- (1) Although Manasseh was raised by a faithful father, he turned away from the Lord.

2 Chron. 33:1-3—¹ Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. ² And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. ³ For he rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had broken down, and he erected altars to the Baals, and made Asheroth, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.

- (2) The Lord _____ Manasseh because of his sin and rebellion.

2 Chron. 33:10-11—¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention. ¹¹ Therefore the Lord brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon.

- (3) Manasseh properly responded to Lord’s discipline by _____ of his sin and following the Lord for the rest of his days.

2 Chron. 33:12-13—¹² And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. ¹³ He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

- (4) Manasseh’s life demonstrates the complexities of life in a fallen world.

2 Chron. 33:19—¹⁹ And his prayer, and how God was moved by his entreaty, and all his sin and his faithlessness, and the sites on which he built high places and set up the Asherim and the images, before he humbled himself behold, they are written in the Chronicles of the Seers.

Key Point: No matter who we are as parents or what we have sought to teach our children, they are ultimately _____ before the Lord to know Him by faith and walk humbly with Him throughout the days of their lives.

The Incarnation & Hope for a Family

1. Although the _____ of parents and children certainly affects our families, it does not have to define them.

Matt. 1:20-21—²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

⇒ *We are free to _____ forgiveness from the Lord!*

⇒ *We are free to both _____ for forgiveness from others and to _____ forgiveness to them!*

2. Jesus experienced all of the _____ of being in a family during His own earthly life and ministry.

Mark 3:21, 31-32—²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, “He is out of his mind”... ³¹ And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. ³² And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you.”

⇒ *Through the power of His _____, we can graciously handle the difficulties of family life.*

⇒ *Through the _____ of Jesus’ family, we are reminded that God is at work to accomplish His plans and purposes even through seasons of difficulty and conflict.*