Luke 3

#### From Heaven, For the World

NEW YEAR > Luke ch 3 Begins PUBLIC MINISTRY of Jesus, Savior of World thru LUKE – Some Big Passages/Related Themes – Overview, Understand, Apply

Many NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS Made > 3<sup>rd</sup> of January MANY BROKEN OFTEN just TOO HARD to FOLLOW-THRU – KEEP PROMISES BIBLE > Grim View of Human Nature – NOT GOOD – PROMISES BREAKERS Rather BIBLE Begins with GOD – PROMISE KEEPER – Invites us to FIND HIM 1. The Way to God 2. The One from God

Luke INTRODUCES JESUS thru his BETTER KNOWN Cousin JOHN John was NATIONALLY Recognized PERSONALITY in ISRAEL John was BOLD and ODD > Desert Dweller, Part-VEGAN, wore 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand FURS chapter 1 > BIRTHS of John then Jesus / Ch 3 BEGIN Ministries – John then Jesus

1. The Way to God – Repentance and Forgiveness

a. Preaching – God makes Self KNOWN thru WORD > Faith by HEARING

400 years since LAST OT Prophet – Malachi – SENT from God > Living WORD

TIME of Spiritual FAMINE: "The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine through the land— not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD. Men will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east, searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it. Amos 8.11,12

1st C ISRAEL was STAGGERING - Oppressive Religion, Crushing Dictatorship

LAST Verse of Chap 1 – JOHN **WAITING** for his CALL to MINISTRY And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel. Luke 1.80

Here in Chapter 3 > GOD gives JOHN his CALL

v. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

John's PREACHING TEXT > Glorious Message of PROPHET ISAIAH John DEFINED as VOICE v. 4 "A voice of one calling in the desert..."

v. 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

John's preaching was EVANGELICAL > EVANGEL = GOOD NEWS Jesus is SAVIOR who offers FORGIVENESS from God's JUDGMENT Act of REPENTANCE does NOT FORGIVE > Position to RECEIVE Forgiveness FORGIVENESS comes ONLY thru JESUS and His CROSS

b. Political - vs. 1,2

Student in Calif > Teachers: "Your essays cannot talk about Religion or Politics" Luke's Essay BREAKS BOTH of those RULES – BIG TIME!

Luke FIXES Gospel in TIME and SPACE > REAL Historical EVENT – ca. 27 AD DATE when 7 Political & Religious LEADERS Luke mentions CONVERGED

vs. 1,2 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of

Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas From BEGINNING Luke made clear he WRITING HISTORY – RELIABLE

...an account of the things that have been *fulfilled* among us, just as they were *handed down* to us by those who from the *first were eyewitnesses* and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have *carefully investigated* everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an *orderly account* for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may *know the certainty* of the things you have been taught. Luke 1.1-4

from the BEGINNING of GOSPEL Story has been -

INSIGNIFICANT Places – Village Nazareth, Fields of Judea, Town of Bethlehem UNIMPORTANT People – Zech/Elizabeth, Simeon/Anna, Joseph/Mary, Shepherds NOW Gospel will IMPACT Centers of POWER – JERUSALEM and ROME

Everything we know about this impressive list of leaders testifies to their pride, violence, and self-indulgence...In dark and dangerous times, when the people seem powerless against the godless forces of evil, God's Word comes to bring salvation. Philip Ryken

7 Men HIGHEST Political & Religious Authority: John carried HIGHER Authority AUTHORITY – INERRANCY – INFALLIBILITY of WORD of LIVING GOD Stark CONTRAST > Dark POLITICAL/Religious Moment – BRIGHT LIGHT!

v.1, 2 in...when...during...*the word of God came to John* son of Zechariah in the desert.

WORD of God SHOULD've been in TEMPLE, Corrupt High Priests REJECTED GOD rejected THEM – Builds NEW KINGDOM starting in Remote DESERT God – CENTERED & FOCUSED > He is PRIMARY Actor, His Work Advances What is happening in LONELY DESERT of Palestine is going to CHANGE World

ALL Gospels quote from Isaiah 40 > ONLY Luke quotes this far from Isaiah... v . 6 And all mankind will see God's salvation.' > Jesus SAVIOR of WORLD

ALL FLESH: No one is UNTOUCHABLE, Gospel CAN Reach Anyone, Everyone MESSAGE has RADICAL Implications for ALL Society, WHOLE WORLD v. 7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him...

v. 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized. FOUL, DESPISED, CORRUPT CLIMBED OUT OF PIT OF HELL to FIND the LIGHT OF HEAVEN

v. 14 Then some soldiers asked him.../ HATED MUSCLE behind EVIL Politicians

vs. 19,20 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all

Like ELIJAH and NATHAN & other FAITHFUL OT Prophets > John FEARLESS Whether preaching to KING or COMMONER – TRUE to God and HIS WORD

'added to them all' > i.e. PREACHING STRONG ALL THE TIME

Like King AHAB of ISRAEL said to king Jehoshaphat of Israel "The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." 1 Kings 22.8

US Pres Andrew JACKSON went to Methodist Church, Preacher Peter Cartwright Before service WARNED not to say anything OFFENSIVE to the President Began: "I understand Andrew Jackson is here. I have been warned to guard my remarks. Andrew Jackson will go to hell if he does not repent!" After Jackson THANKED: If I had regiment of men like you, I'd whip the world!

### c. Promised > WAY to GOD – FULFILLED His ETERNAL Plan

# 1) 30 Years Earlier

ANGEL told Father Priest ZECHARIAH "Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1.16-17

FATHER PROPHESIED: And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins Luke 1.76-77

2) 700 Years Earlier Isaiah > ch 40 Theological Foundation for Luke's Gospel

ANCIENT World > CUSTOMARY for Kings to Receive ROYAL WELCOME Citizens must PREPARE Well Constructed Road to Advance w/ Pomp & Dignity Great KING is Coming > Way must be PREPARED

REPENTANCE – Straighten out RUBBLE of our LIVES – Path for God to Travel vs. 4,5 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

Mountains of PRIDE Broken DOWN / Valleys of Self-Pity RAISED & Filled Jesus the King > Will find ENTRY into any HEART that is SORRY for SIN BAPTISM forces DECISION > *Will you REPENT or will you REJECT Him?*  d. Panic – God is COMING and you are NOT READY!

vs. 7,9 "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?... The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

Do something NOW > the House is ON FIRE! TURN or BURN!

#### Moment of CRISIS – No time for LEISURE

John's preaching was ESCHATOLOGICAL > ESCHATON = the END

John anticipates END of God's SALVATION and JUDGMENT

JESUS will come at END of the AGE as HARVESTER > SEPARATION

vs. 16,17 "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Holy Spirit and FIRE > ONE Baptism w/ TWO Effects > John FINAL OT Prophet Looked FINAL Day of the Lord > Enemies of God Destroyed / Blessing Righteous God's SAVING ACTION > CROSS – Live or Die – Heaven or Hell – Turn or Burn

Simeon: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel" Luke 2.34

John – LIKE ISAIAH – Speaks against EMPTY RELIGIOUS Ritual – Dead Works

Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations — I cannot bear your evil assemblies...When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood...learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. Isaiah 1.13,15,17 vs. 8,9 And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

NO Salvation thru our CONNECTIONS – Family, School, Youth Group, Church

Underlying PRESUMPTION – GOD NEEDS US – He is LOST WITHOUT US! God can HANDLE Miraculous BIRTH – John himself! – Jesus – ISAAC from Abe

Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many. Isaiah 51.1,2

Whether from ROCKS or People – His KINGDOM will SURELY ADVANCE

**Putridness of Sin** – ONLY Gentiles needed WASHING > We are GOOD JEWS! NEVER before Baptized Jews – NEVER considered Necessary ASSAULT on the STATUS QUO – RADICAL Demand for CHANGE Tried SLITHERED from RESPONSIBILITY > No CHANGE still are SNAKES!

Luke uses NOUN Repentance & VERB Repent > More than all 3 Other GOSPELS TRUE Repentance BOTH > OUTWARD Testimony & INWARD Transformation Cannot be SAVED by Something WE DO > Raise Hand, Sinner's Prayer, Stand

See, the Name of the LORD comes from afar, with burning anger and dense clouds of smoke; his lips are full of wrath, and his tongue is a consuming fire. His breath is like a rushing torrent, rising up to the neck. He shakes the nations in the sieve of destruction Isaiah 30.27,28

John epitomizes what is best in preaching that honours God and helps humankind. Motivated by the fear of God and desiring the good of people John preached both the law of repentance and the gospel of forgiveness. Douglas Milne WORLD seek TIME to think it OVER – Have Some Fun, Family, Future Plans God will reveal WRATH against every Unrepentant SINNER One Day People who would never Ride in Car or Airplane w/out Safety of SEATBELT CARELESS Hurtle thru this DANGEROUS Life with No SECURITY in Christ e. Practice – NEED BOTH Good Preaching AND PRACTICE

v. 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. NO FRUIT > NO FUTURE w/ God

Right Belief seen in Right Behavior – Walk your Talk – Wear your Words John NOT preaching CHEAP GRACE > Mere Outward Conformity and Rituals John was PATTERN for MARTIN LUTHER – Indulgences NO Saving POWER Both preached need Get RIGHT with God > RIGHTEOUS will LIVE by FAITH EVERYBODY wants FORGIVENESS / FEW are willing to REPENT

1980 Ugandan Pastor Peterson Sozi in Open-Air Market in NAIROBI Raise Hand if want to go to Heaven / Raise if willing to Turn From Sin - Follow MOST Hands WENT DOWN!

v. 11 John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

2 Tunics – POOR PEOPLE > Yet still HEARTS of GREED – We have Dozens REPENTANCE is More than FEELING SORRY for What we HAVE DONE vs. 12-14 *Tax collectors*... "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. Then some *soldiers*..."Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

These Examples have to do with MONEY and SOCIAL JUSTICE NOT told to CHANGE JOBS > rather CLEAN UP their JOBS – Shine LIGHT World needs to SEE Real Life Examples – contra Central Asians becoming pastors John calls People from NORMAL Social Existence to KINGDOM LIVING Life at the local level and one's own normal network of relationships are touched by this ethical vision, with the result that 'repentance' must be understood within and related to even the most mundane. Joel B. Green

Mary: "He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty." Luke 1.52,53

Gospel seen > Generosity, Hospitality, Honesty, Non-Violence, Contentment God calls ALL OF US to Repent in Real and Practical Ways in our Life Setting

The outstretched hand of another should note grope in a void but should find prayerful friendship in my outstretched hand. Paul John Isaak

f. Pays the Price vs. 19-20 Herod the tetrarch...locked John up in prison.

Luke NOT Chronological Here > John is FINISHED / FOCUS Now ON JESUS Almost seems UNFAIR > LOYAL Servant John has such LOUSY ENDING SUFFERING for the Savior is HIGH CALLING > SIGN you are REALLY HIS CROSS was TEMPORARY – CROWN of HONOR is ETERNAL

The church must have the freedom to witness, the moral necessity of expressing its inner convictions, even when these run counter to political expediency...there is a high price to pay if the church becomes too politicized or our faith too privatized. Paul John Isaak

# 2. The One from God – Son of Man, Son of God

a. Heart of Message – John must DECREASE, Jesus must INCREASE

Message of ONE MORE POWERFUL - NONE Worthy to Untie HIS Sandals

v. 15,16 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

Every service which a slave performs for his master shall a disciple do for histeacher except the loosing of his sandal thong.Rabbinic Saying

GETTING CHUMMY with MASTER'S FEET was TOO MUCH for Disciple JOHN > I am not even GOOD ENOUGH to TOUCH Feet of MASTER Jesus

The whole direction of a truly Christian life is to make more of Jesus, and less of ourselves. Philip Ryken

b. Heritage Luke INTERRUPTS Story with BACKGROUND Information

v. 23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli...

30 – Age LEVITICAL Priest began MINISTRY – Age Man FULLY MATURE

LUKE > Genealogy follows HEAVENLY Voice – IDENTITY as Son of God Luke 'BEHIND the Scenes' --- 'So it was thought...son of JOSEPH'

PURPOSE > Affirm the LEGITIMACY of Jesus the MESSIAH REAL MAN > NOT DEMIGOD like Greek & Roman MYTHOLOGY 75 Names – MOST NEVER appear Anywhere in Bible – Real, Human FAMILY

MATTHEW's Geneaology > JEWISH Ancestry – Son of David, ABRAHAM Matthew BEGINS with Genealogy > Bible transl in PAPUA NEW GUINEA Began translation with Ch. 2 – LIST of NAMES Obscure, Waste of TIME Completed 27 Chapters – LIMITED INTEREST of TRIBAL People Gathered People to ask Local Word for 'BEGAT'- transl. Ch 1 FINISH Matthew Great Surprise people asked "YOU MEAN these are REAL PEOPLE?" THOUGHT – Gospel was just WHITE MAN'S MAKE BELIEVE STORIES Genealogy – Understanding REAL PEOPLE / TRUTH of Story > RESPONSE!

ADAM > Solidarity of Jesus with ALL HUMANITY – Savior of the WORLD Jesus is MAN as GOD meant MAN to BE - PERFECT IMAGE of God in FLESH Jesus is SECOND Adam – LAST and FINAL ADAM > FULLY OBEYS Father

Having David for an ancestor links Jesus to God's royal house; having Abraham for an ancestor links him to God's covenant people, east, west, north, and south; having Adam for an ancestor links him to the whole human family. Douglas Milne

### c. Humility

v. 21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too.

JOHN has PREPARED the Way > Now SPOTLIGHT is on JESUS FIRST Jesus must Himself be FULLY PREPARED for His Mission of Salvation

Jesus STOOD in LINE with SINNERS > Accepted Baptism of REPENTANCE NOT YET Christian Baptism into NAME of Father, Son, Spirit > REPENTANCE Even tho JESUS had NO SINS to REPENT OF / Our REPRESENTATIVE

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the<br/>righteousness of God.2 Corinthians 5.21

Jesus takes our RAGS and in EXCHANGE ROBES us in HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

He was numbered with the transgressors

Isaiah 53.12

Jesus:"Here I am, I have come to do your will"... And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Hebrews 10.9,10

BAPTISM is only PARTICIPLE > MAIN VERB is VOICE from HEAVEN

#### d. Holy Spirit

vs. 21,22 And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Luke little emphasis on ACT or MODE of Baptism > SPIRIT and VOICE of God Jesus' PERSONAL PENTECOST > Filled with SPIRIT for WORK of GOD

VIVID Picture of TRIUNE GOD – Son in Water / Father in Heaven / Spirit Dove Separate in PERSONS – WORKING as ONE for SALVATION of WORLD

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations." Isaiah 42.1

DOVE Meaning? // NOAH? – PEACE found in Jesus – End of Hostility with God Symbol LOVING Character of the DIVINE LIFE in Jesus

...a dove is the most meek and innocent of all birds; without gall, without talons, having no fierceness in it, expressing nothing but love and friendship... Thomas Goodwin Jesus BEGINS Ministry FILLED to FULLNESS of BLESSING of SPIRIT

For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. John 3.34,35

v. 16 John: "I baptize you with water....He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

# JOHN (or any man) could put PEOPLE in WATER

#### ONLY JESUS can put the HOLY SPIRIT in PEOPLE

JESUS Did that PENTECOST – Birth and BAPTISM of the Church

Baptism of HOLY SPIRIT > Mark of ALL Christians / No H.S. - No Salvation Baptism = UNION – Joined to Jesus by the Holy Spirit

Thru His CONNECTION > All that God has for us in Christ in Heavenly Realms

BAPTISM - 1st & Foremost EVENT, Not Experience - Occurred on PENTECOST

APPLICATION > FIRST SUNDAY of a NEW YEAR – Look at Questions

v. 10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

v. 12 Tax collectors: "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

v. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

Bible asks Questions Not because God does NOT Know Answers: Do YOU Know?

Thru REPENTANCE & FORGIVENESS we RECEIVE Benefits of JESUS AMAZING NEWS > All AFFECTION and APPROVAL Father has for JESUS Rightful POSSESSION of EVERY BELIEVER that is FOUND IN CHRIST If YOU are in JESUS > God says to you YOU are my BELOVED CHILD "I am WELL PLEASED with YOU!" > REWARDED with Gift of Holy Spirit

PARADOX of Gospel > One whose Feet we're UNWORTHY to TOUCH WASHES feet of DISCIPLES – Even MORE WASHES Completely with BLOOD RISEN Jesus sends Followers OUT with SAME Message: "…repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" Luke 24.47

The priority of repentance towards God and receiving his forgiveness through Christ is more pressing now than at any time in history of the planet as world population outstrips conversions to Jesus. Douglas Milne

Message PREACHED Church BEGAN > PROMISE until He Comes AGAIN

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts 2.38,39

By GRACE we're offered GIFTS of REPENTANCE and FORGIVENESS Come to GOD HUMBLE & HONEST about EMPTINESS: RETURN Home FULL

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1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. 5 Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the

every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. 6 And all mankind will see God's salvation.'

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

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15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. 16 John answered them all, "I baptize you withwater. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them. 19 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and all the other evil things he had done, 20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli, 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melki, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, 25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, 26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, 27 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, 28 the son of Melki, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam. the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, 29 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, 30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, 31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the 33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, son of Nahshon. the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, 35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, 36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, 37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, 38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.