

The Creator God

Text Ref. 1

“While speaking Earth into existence, this great all-everything God – who was all alone and yet not lonely due to His multi-faceted being that embodies ‘all things pertaining to life and godliness’ – simultaneously created the universe with trillions of cosmic objects flying and whirling hither and yon, with no easily discernible pattern, either to their movements or the reason for their creation.” (Txtbk. Lesson One)

Comment (a) on Text Ref. 1

Scripture tells us that God created “the heavens and the earth,” an inclusive term meaning the entire universe. But Scripture also informs us that all that God is, dwells in Jesus (Col. 1.19, 2.9), and it also makes us to know that Jesus created the same heavens and earth that God created (Eph. 3.9; Col. 1.16) Now – it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out that God (Yahweh, Jehovah) and Jesus are one and the same Person.

Genesis 1 tells us what this Almighty God whom we call Jesus did. He rolled up his sleeves and went to work in a mighty way. You may read all about it in the first chapter of Genesis. What He did is capsulated in the chart following..

Day/verse	Specific Creative Work
1	1.1-2 Earth and heaven
	1.3-5 Light,¹ day and night decreed
2	1.6-8 Firmament (sky) decreed
3	1.9-10 Seas and Land separated
	1.11-13 Plants and trees decreed
4	1.14-19 Sun, moon, stars appear
5	1.20- Fish, etc., brought from the seas. Winged creatures

¹ This light did not emanate from the sun. The sun was not created until the 4th day.

In this the #2 issue of Kingdom Herald (KH) I want to correct some oversights I didn’t have the time or space to take care of in the first KH.

1. I want to give a shout out to my wife Pat and my daughter Judy Harper – they have taken this 19th century anachronistic old fellow out of the cobwebs of the past, gently placed me in the 21st century, dusted me off and said, “Go get’m, Tiger!” Pat, after seeing some flickering signs of life in her Rip van Winkle, has pitched in and been my helper of the moment, while Judy, who lives some light years away in Cincinnati, has been my rock of info on the ins and outs of the world of the Internet. She also, with care and diplomacy, corrects any damage the “bull in the china shop” may be inflicting. God bless the ladies in my life!
2. You will encounter in my posts some text labeled “Text Reference,” or “Comment on Text Reference so-and-so...” The labels are not applicable to the excerpts, but **be sure to read the text to which they apply.** I leave the labels on the excerpts so that my readers can get a reasonable idea of how Life of Christ in Five Phases is laid out for optimal learning.
3. If any issues of KH have a number of pages not divisible by 4, just disregard it and enjoy the reading.
4. The current issue (#2) of Kingdom Herald is like an airliner arriving at its destination a few hours ahead of schedule... now that is a bona fide rarity! I am adjusting KH’s schedule to be on a weekly basis. The next issue should be out by next weekend.

	23	appear
6	1.24-25	Land animals
	1.26-31	Man ²
7	2.2-3	Day of rest ³

We shall now endeavor to make a prodigious leap from the creation of the earth – and presumably of the entire universe at the same time – to the redemption of mankind, which also assured the redemption of man’s cosmological neighborhood. And since this is the Easter season, what could be more apropos than a brief look at the lineage of Jesus? You remember Jesus, don’t you ... He’s the One who the season is supposedly to be all about ...

Comment (b) on Text Ref. 11

Jesus’ True Genealogy

There is considerable confusion over the genealogies of Jesus as given by Matthew (Mat. 11.1-16) and Luke (Luke 3.23-38). I have resorted to the opinion of the renowned Bible commentator Adam Clarke (1760-1832) to reconcile some of the differences and clarify the issue. (Adam Clarke’s Commentary on the New Testament, 1st edition)

Clarke takes away much of the confusion surrounding the two genealogies of Jesus as given by Matthew (Mat. 1,1-25) and Luke (Luke 3.23-38). I shall try to pass on to you what I have learned, not by my own wisdom, but by being taught by others who in their time were taught by others or – and this is available to all of God’s people – by getting insights on His Word from the Spirit of God. This particular information however comes from Adam Clarke.

Luke uses this phrase about Jesus’ paternity: “being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son* of Heli...” Herodotus (c. 485-c. 425 B.C.; Gr. historian: called the *Father of History*) had the habit of using the same words in referring to one who was only seen or known as the son of another person. Matthew, on the other hand, always spoke directly concerning who was the father of whom in his genealogy of Jesus. For example, Matthew stated this of Joseph, who was reputed to be Jesus’ father; “Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary...” Matthew did not equivocate and say that Joseph was Jesus’ *supposed* father; he only said that he was the husband of Mary.

Clarke cites two examples of Luke’s referring to a son who was only recognized as a son of his supposed father: 1) Jesus, which example we have already noted; and 2) Adam, whom Luke calls “the son of God.” Adam was not God’s biological son; he was a son of God only by creation. God did not have a human biological son until Jesus Christ was born, but even then, strictly speaking, Jesus was the human Son of God not by a biological connection, but by the fact that the Holy Spirit implanted in Mary’s womb the unique human cell, *to which cell Mary did not contribute biologically*, that would in due time be born Jesus the Savior of the world.

Consider this: Mary nourished the original cell (which was even then the Son of God) until it came to full term, she birthed this amazing Person and took care of Him when, like all human infants and children, He could not care for Himself, and when He suffered and died, Mary suffered with Him and saw the dying of her exalted hopes for Him and all humanity. Biological considerations aside, she certainly deserved to be called Jesus’ mother.

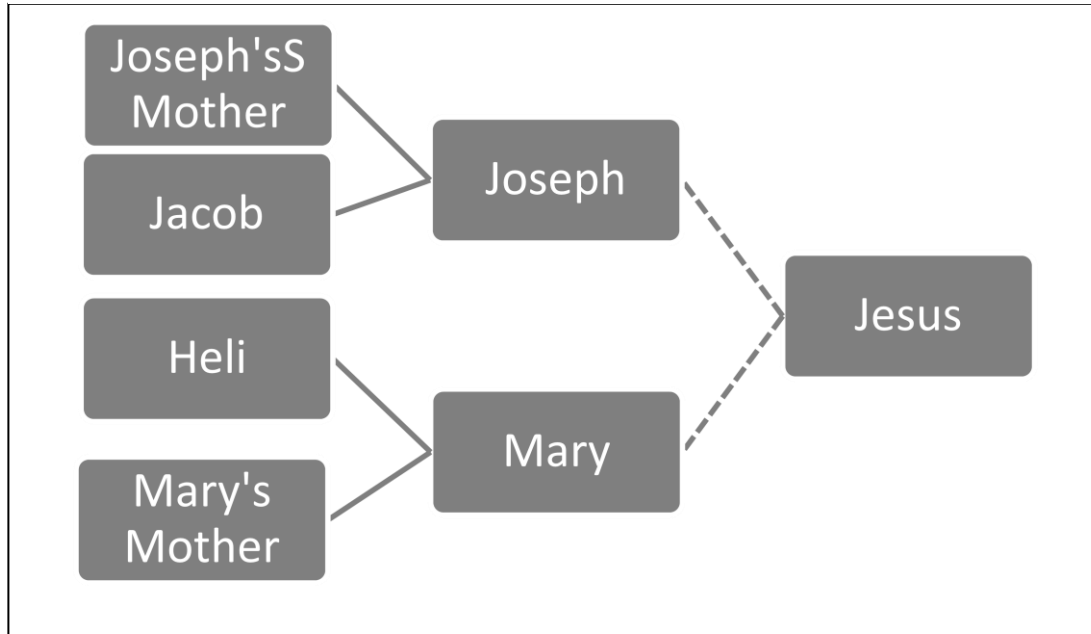
To buttress his opinion, Clarke cites two examples in Luke’s genealogy of Jesus, persons who were not real sons but only deemed to be such. They were sons-in-law of their supposed fathers. This was due to the custom of not entering the names of women into the Israelite genealogical tables. If a family line ended with a woman, the Jews would insert the name of her husband, who was only a son-in-law, as the son of the woman’s father. The first example of this is in Mat. 1.12, “Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel.” But in Luke 3.27 Luke tells us that Salathiel was the son of Neri. Once again Luke uses the Jewish genealogically correct term and describes a son-in-law as a son. Salathiel was the actual son of Jechonias (Mat. 1.12) and son-in-law to Neri.

² It is evident from the scriptural record that man was the only creature made like God. Not even angels were so fashioned.

³ The Scripture records the seven days of creation as a fait accompli because what God plans to do is always an established fact before its actual implementation. But, in a literal sense, the 7th day of creation has not yet dawned. Creation is now only into the sunset of its 6th day.

The second example is found in Mat.1.16 where Jesus' father Joseph is plainly declared to be the son of Jacob whereas in Luke 3.25 he is said to be the son of Neri. Once again Luke loosely calls one who is a son-in-law a son. It was the common practice of the day when assembling genealogical tables.

Figure 1



Note: It would be beneficial for you the teacher to absorb this data and, using enlarged copies of the data and the explanatory chart (Figure 11), to explain it to the class.

Column 1 of Figure 11:

1. Joseph's mother was not named in the genealogy of either Matthew or Luke.
2. Jacob was Joseph's real father. (Mat.1.16)
3. Heli,

who is said by Luke to be Joseph's father (Luke 3.23), was actually Joseph's father-in-law (Mary's father)

Column 2 of Figure 11 above:

4. The lines leading from Joseph and Mary to Jesus are dotted because it is not hard fact that Joseph and Mary were Jesus' biological parents. Legally, yes; biologically, no. We all know that Joseph was only the "supposed" father of Jesus. (Luke 3.23) We have seen already that Mary was only the mother of Jesus by reason of the fact she birthed Him. She did not contribute anything to Jesus in a genetic manner.

After the Ascension the Story Is Only Beginning

It would be good to pause at this point and reflect on what we have learned. Jesus did not undertake His arduous mission to earth merely to provide us with a beautiful story of love and self-sacrifice. He came to this world 1) to be conceived in a unique manner and to be born as all other humans are, 2) to live an impossible sinless life, 3) to suffer as no other man has ever suffered and to die in utter humiliation and shame, 4) to arise from the dead in transcendent glory and 5) to ascend to the Father before whom He is continually offering His atoning blood and thus through the cumulative effects of all five of the listed items to bring salvation to all sinners.

He is eternal. Yet the limited thirty-three years of His mortal life were of infinite and incalculable importance to all mankind. Incorporated into those years was man's salvation. Within them is found the workings of a love that no one yet has fully comprehended. Without those years and without the divine love with which they were saturated, there would be no hope, no future for sinners. And this includes every mortal who has ever trod the earth with the exception of Jesus.

Gifts of the Spirit Bestowed on Believers by Christ		
Gifts of the Spirit to the Individual		
(1 Cor. 12.8-10; ref., Rom. 12.4-8)		
Word of Wisdom	Word of Knowledge	Faith
Healing	Miracles	Prophecy
Discerning of Spirits	Tongues	Interpretation of Tongues
Gifts of the Spirit to the Church		
(1 Cor. 12.28-30)		
1 st Apostles	2 nd Prophets	3 rd Teachers
After the above eminent gifts, there are -		
Miracles	Healings	Helps
Governments (administrations)	Diversities of Tongues	