

Harmony of the Gospels
“The Pre-Existence of Jesus”

The one time atheist and then Believer, C. S. Lewis said that *“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things that Jesus said, wouldn’t be a great moral teacher.*

He’d be either a lunatic on a level with a man who says that he’s a poached egg or else he’d be the devil of hell.

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse...”

Aw Tozer said that *Jesus is God acting like God in the lowly clothing of human flesh. Jesus is not one of many ways to approach God, nor is He the best of several ways, He is the only way....”*

What makes Jesus Christ so different from all of the Religions of the world is that Jesus claimed to be the eternal God who has always existed.

- ⊖ **Not many people** have come on the scene that dared to claim that they were the Eternal God.
- ⊖ **Many have come claiming** that they are “**A God**”, or “**Sent from God**”, but not that they were God themselves.
- ⊖ **Many people have claimed** to be the “**Only Savior**” of the human race, and have written their books and additions to the Bible.

Only Jesus backed up His claim to be the Eternal God and the only Savior of the world, by raising Himself from the dead.

- ⊖ **In fact, Jesus based everything** that He said and did on one proof, after He was Crucified, He would raise Himself from the Dead.

Mark 8:31

And Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again

John 8:28

Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He



- ☞ **Because Jesus rose from the dead**, we could know for certain that if we trusted our entire life to Him, we also would rise from the dead, never to die again.
- ☞ **Jesus also claimed** that **if He rose from the dead, all other people and religions and churches that claimed to be the only way or a way to heaven, were liars.**

Don't get mad at me and write me a letter telling me how narrow minded I am, I am just telling you what Jesus said:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

One thing seems to be true of just about all religions of the world, they have a way to get to Heaven that is based upon the good works or obedience of their followers.

- ☞ **Jesus claimed** that there is **nothing that you can do to earn Heaven** other than just believe that He died for you and paid the price for you to be able to go to heaven.

When we say that we are going to study the "Harmony of the Gospels", what we mean is that we are going to study **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John** all at the same time, instead of one at a time.

- ☞ **You see, if four of us were at the scene of an accident** and we were asked to record what we saw at the accident, what would you get?
 1. **Eye witness number 1** saw a man in a white car and a woman in a red truck run into each other.
 2. **Eye witness 2** also saw that, but they also noticed that the woman in the red truck ran the stop sign.
 3. **Eye witness number 3** saw all that the first 2 witnesses saw, but she also noticed that the man in the white car was going really fast.
 4. **Witness number 4** saw something that none of them saw, the woman in the red truck was talking on her cell phone and putting her makeup on while she was driving.



Now, if we just studied the testimonies of just one of these witnesses at a time, we would not get the entire story of what actually happened.

- ☞ **Matthew** is seeking to convince the Jewish people that Jesus is **their long awaited King** and Messiah.
- ☞ **Mark** is writing his eyewitness testimony of Jesus to reach the common everyday ordinary slave of that day, to tell them that Jesus came **to be a servant** to us by laying down His life for us.
- ☞ **Luke** is a medical doctor, so he is very detailed in his descriptions



of Jesus and writes to show us that **Jesus was a man** just like we are, so He understand what it is like to be us.

- ☞ **John** is writing to convince us that Jesus is the Living God, who gave up His rights and privileges so that He could become a man and offer His life for ours.

By looking at what each one of these 4 men wrote, all at the same time, we get the whole complete story of who Jesus is, what He said and what He did.

In our study of the “**Harmony of the Gospels**”, we are going to go back so far in the story of Jesus , that there is not really a beginning at all...

- ☞ **John goes so far back with Jesus**, to that time when He was known as “*The Word*”, The Logos, The expressed Word of God, with no beginning...

John 1:1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

When the universe began, Jesus was already God, in fact Jesus did not have a beginning, and He will never have an end.

- ☞ **I am always amazed** at how many people do not know that Jesus is God and that Jesus Himself claimed to be the eternal living God.
- ☞ **For some reason**, when people talk about God, they will say “*God, and Jesus and the Holy Spirit*”, as if Jesus wasn’t God, but Just God’s Son.
- ☞ **The Bible teaches** that The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God, and these 3 make up the One God of the Universe.

Mark 1:9-11

9 It came to pass in those days that **Jesus** came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and **the Spirit** descending upon Him like a dove.

11 Then **a voice came from heaven**, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

So here we see all 3 of the Godhead at the same time, working together, and apparent in that they are 3 separate and distinct beings.

1. **Jesus** being Baptized in the Jordan River.
2. **The Holy Spirit** descending on Jesus.
3. **The Father** speaking from Heaven, “*This is My beloved Son...*”

As we go through the Bible, you will see it demonstrated that **each one of these 3 are called God.**

- ☞ **People get hung up** on the fact that we use the word “Trinity” to describe this event that we see demonstrated here in Mark chapter 1, verses 9-11
- ☞ **The word “Trinity”** is defined in the dictionary as “The union of three persons in one God.
- ☞ **So Trinity** is just a word that we use to describe something **that we see over and over in the Bible.**
- ☞ **Just like the word “Bible”** isn’t in the Bible, it is just the word we use to describe what it is.
- ☞ **The word “Grandfather”** is also not found anywhere in the Bible, but we see lots of examples of Grandfathers in the Bible.
- ☞ **For a detailed explanation of the Trinity,** pick up the CD at the front table on the Major Doctrines of the Bible



So, in the Harmony of these 4 gospels, we have a Genealogy by Matthew, by Luke and by John, but not of Mark.

- ☞ **Now if you are really following me close here,** and know your Bible a little, you just caught something.
- ☞ **“Hey wait a minute,** John doesn’t have a genealogy for Jesus...”
- ☞ **Oh really.** Remember John is seeking to convince us that Jesus is God, so where does John start Jesus life?

John 1:1-5

1 **In the beginning** was the Word, (**Already Existed**) and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John takes us all the way back to the beginning of the Heavens and the earth and tells us that Jesus was already alive when everything else began, That Jesus has always been God.

- ☞ **In fact, Jesus is the One** that Spoke everything into existence, and Jesus is the one that holds everything together even as we sit here this morning.

Colossians 1:16-17

16 For **by Jesus all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Now, most of us would not admit that when we get to a Book in the Bible that has a Genealogy, we don't read it, we just skip over it and go onto something that looks more interesting...

- ⊕ **So I am really going to make you “Suffer” this morning**, I am going to teach you the Genealogies of Jesus...
- ⊕ **The reason** that the geologies are in the New Testament, is **so that we can prove that Jesus is qualified to be the Savior**.
- ⊕ **Anyone who wants to claim** that they are the Savior of the world, has to be able to prove it.
- ⊕ **The way that they prove it**, was by meeting the requirements that the Old Testament lays out.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **the virgin** shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name **Immanuel**.

Number One: The Savior must be born from a Virgin.

- ⊕ **Why?** Because if he was born of a natural father, He would inherit the sin that all of us inherited from the fallen nature of our parents.
- ⊕ **The Savior** must Himself be Without any sin, to be qualified to be our Savior.
- ⊕ **Remember that the Passover Lamb** had to be free of defects to be qualified to be acceptable for a sacrifice.

Exodus 12:5

Your lamb shall be **without blemish**, a male of the first year.

Jesus was born without sin, and lived His entire 33 ½ years upon the earth without ever sinning one time.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin

John 8:46

Which of you convicts Me of sin?

That is why **ONLY Jesus** is qualified to be the Savior of the world.

- ⊕ **Every other person** that has ever been born and claimed to be “The way to Heaven”, was a sinner.
- ⊕ **According to the Bible**, a Sinner cannot ever be a Savior.
- ⊕ **That is why we worship and serve Jesus**, because only He is “*Without Sin*”.

There is a hint in the Book of Genesis that the coming Savior would be born from a Virgin:

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and **her Seed**; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.

As the Lord pronounces the judgments of the fall of Adam and Eve, he also promises that He alone would provide a Savior, and notice that this Savior will come from “*The Seed of a Woman*”.

- ☞ **The only problem is** that a woman does not have the “Seed”, she has the egg, the seed comes from man.
- ☞ **Here the Lord is saying** that He will supply the seed that will make the woman bring the Savior into the world.

Luke 1:35

And the angel answered and said to Mary, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you**, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God

Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit, that is why Jesus was without sin and qualified to be our Savior.

- ☞ **The doctrine of the Virgin birth** is so important, that if Jesus had not been born of the Holy Spirit, He could not be our Savior.

"Larry King, the CNN talk show host, was once asked who he would most want to interview if he could choose anyone from all of history. He said, 'Jesus Christ.' The questioner said, 'And what would you like to ask Him?' King replied, "**I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me**".



Notice that Isaiah says that this one born of a Virgin will be “Immanuel”, that word means “God living with us”.

- ☞ **In other words**, Isaiah says that the true Savior that comes into the world, born of a virgin, will be GOD LIVING IN HUMAN FLESH.

Second: The Savior must be Descended from Both Abraham and David.

Genesis 22:18

In your seed Abraham all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

1 Kings 2:45

But King Solomon shall be blessed, and **the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever.**

So, as Matthew begins his eye witness account of the Life of Jesus, he gives us Jesus Genealogy through Josephs Line from Abraham, through David:

Matthew 1

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, **the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:**

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

3 Judah begot Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

4 Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.

5 Salmon begot Boaz by **Rahab**, Boaz begot Obed by **Ruth**, Obed begot Jesse,

6 and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. (**Bathsheba**)

7 Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa.

8 Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.

9 Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah.

10 Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.

11 Josiah begot **Jeconiah** and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel.

13 Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor.

14 Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud.

15 Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob.

16 And Jacob begot **Joseph** the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations

If you examine Matthews genealogy of Jesus you find that he has included 4 women.

- ☞ **This is very unusual** because during this time, the names of women were not ever included in a genealogy.
- ☞ **Why did the Holy Spirit** include the name of 4 women, and why these particular women?

Tamar: was a prostitute. She was Judah's daughter in law from his first son Er , he died and left Tamar as a widow.

- ☞ **Tamar then married Judah's 2nd son Onan** and he refused to consummate the marriage and he also died, leaving Tamar without any children.
- ☞ **Judah sent her back to her home village** because he did not want the responsibility to provide a husband for her, even though it was his responsibility to do so.

- ☞ **Tamar pretends to be a prostitute** when Judah solicited her without knowing that it was his daughter in law Tamar.
- ☞ **Prostitutes covered their faces then**, so that Judah didn't know who the woman he solicited was.
- ☞ **Tamar becomes pregnant** with her father in law, Judah's baby, realizing then that he had not done the right thing, Judah finally admitted that Tamar was more righteous than he (genesis 38:26)

Rahab: she was a pagan prostitute from Cana.

- ☞ **As Joshua sent out 2 spies** to check out the land of Cana before sending in an army, the 2 spies were housed by Rahab.
- ☞ **Joshua ordered** that she be protected from harm when they attacked the city.
- ☞ **Later, Rahab** married a Hebrew man and **she is the mother of "Boaz" who is the great grandfather of David the king of Israel.**

Ruth: a women from the town of Moab, the nation that began after Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed. They were bitter enemies against Israel.

- ☞ **Her Jewish husband** died leaving Ruth with **no son's**.
- ☞ **Ruth moved to Israel** with her mother-in-law, Naomi.
- ☞ **She married** "Boaz" Rahab's son.
- ☞ **She became** the mother of Obed, making her David's great grandmother.

Bathsheba: the wife of Uriah the Hittite.

- ☞ **King David** committed adultery with her.
- ☞ **David murders** her husband.
- ☞ **Bathsheba marries David** and gives birth to a son that David was the father of, the child dies.
- ☞ **Her second child by David is Solomon**, the next king of Israel and "wisest" and wealthiest man who ever lived.

You look at these 4 ladies and you say to yourself: "Why did Jesus include these women in His genealogy?, they had more drama and problems in their lives than most of us would ever care to have.

Why does Jesus include in his family A prostitute, a pagan Canaanite, a hated Moabite, and an adulterous woman.

- ☞ **Because Jesus came to save people** who have messed up their lives or have had others mess up their lives.
- ☞ **Listen ladies**, no matter what you have done wrong in your life, or no matter what other have done to you, **Jesus still loves you.**
- ☞ **Jesus has the power** to give you a brand new life, **no matter who you are.**

- ☞ **You might feel ashamed** of the way you have lived your life, or you might be overcome with anger or sorrow over what people have done to you, Jesus can take all that away and make it as if none of it ever happened, sound good?
- ☞ **If you will surrender your life to Jesus this morning**, He will remove all of these things from your record and make you perfect in His sight.

All 4 of these women, even though they had terrible pain filled lives, they went on to become great women of God.

- ☞ **They became women who the Lord used Greatly**, even to bring His own Son into the world, through these women.
- ☞ **Women are equal in the kingdom of God**, they are valuable, precious, and—a treasure to him.

Now, don't miss an important detail here in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, this guy called "**Jeconiah**"..

Matthew 1

11 Josiah begot **Jeconiah** and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

In the Book of Jeremiah, this king of Israel, "Jeconiah", was such an evil man that the Lord cursed his entire line of descendants and said that not one of his sons would ever sit on the throne as the king of Israel.

Jeremiah 22:24-30

24 "As I live," says the LORD, "though Coniah (**nickname for Jeconiah**) the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off;

30 Thus says the LORD: "**Write this man down as childless**, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For **none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David**, And ruling anymore in Judah.'

Now, What happened as a result of the Lord cursing Jeconiah line of descendants is that none of his future children, grandchildren, or any children could ever be the King of Israel.

- ☞ **The Problem here is** that Jeconiah is in Josephs line.
- ☞ **If Jeconiah's line is cursed by God**, and none of Jeconiah's descendants can be the king of Israel, **then if Jesus is in this line, He cannot be the king of Israel.**

The Lord has created a tremendous problem for Himself hasn't He?

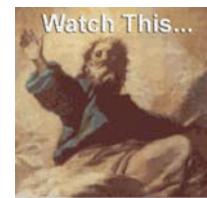
- ☞ **Number One**, the Lord said that His Son, the Savior of the world, would come through a line that descended from Abraham and David.
- ☞ **Then He cursed that line** because of Jeconiah.

In Matthews account of the names of those in Jesus Genealogy, is listed Abraham, David and then Jeconiah, finally Joseph Jesus father is listed...

- ⊖ **Satan probably thought** that he was pretty smart here as he arranged things so that Jeconiah would be cursed.
- ⊖ **Satan probably thought that the Lord** could never bring Jesus into the world now through this line, because it was cursed by God Himself.

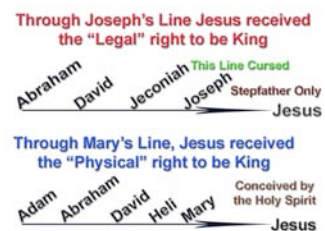
There in the counsels of Heaven, you can just see the Lord turn to the angels as they express their concern over this problem.

- ⊖ **Then the Father turns to the angels** and says: “Watch this...”
- ⊖ **Joseph remember** was not Jesus Biological father, Jesus was not born from Joseph, Jesus father was God.
- ⊖ **Jesus was born** by the Holy Spirit, as He came upon Mary.
- ⊖ **So, Jesus receives His legal right** to the throne as king through Josephs line.
- ⊖ **But Jesus received the “Physical right** to be King, through Mary’s Line
- ⊖ **Jesus is not a part of the cursed line** because Joseph is only Jesus Stepfather



Did you get all of that?

- ⊖ **All of that amazing work** is in a genealogy that most of us don’t pay much attention to.
- ⊖ **And yet in what I just showed you**, we see just how mighty the Lord is to accomplish His will in our lives.
- ⊖ **No one is able** to stop the Lord’s plan in your life.



Mary’s genealogy that shows that Jesus is qualified through her family to be the Savior, is found in Luke chapter 3

Now, Mary’s genealogy is listed in the reverse, with the last names listed first:

Luke 3:23-38

23 Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, **the son of Heli, Heli was Mary’s Father**

- 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph,
- 25 the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai,
- 26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah,
- 27 the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,
- 28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er,
- 29 the son of Jose, 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 Jonan, the son of Eliakim,

31 the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, 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 son of Nahshon,
33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, 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 Cainan,
38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of **Adam**, the son of God.

Mary's Genealogy goes all the way back to Adam, to show us that Jesus died for every person that has ever lived on the earth, Good and Bad.

- ☞ **Notice that Abraham** and David's name are listed in Mary's line, qualifying Jesus to be the Savior of the World.
- ☞ **Hey, this might sound like** it is not very important, but listen, **If Jesus could not prove that He was descended from Abraham and David, He could not be the Savior**, no matter what He said or did.



Did you know that In 70 A.D, when Titus came into Jerusalem and destroyed the city and burned the Temple to the ground, all of the records that showed who was born from who, were destroyed?

- ☞ **After 70 Ad**, no one could prove that they were qualified to be the Savior.
- ☞ **It was the Lords way** of making a statement to the world that His Son had already come, no others need apply.

Today, not one person can ever prove whether or not they are in this line of descendents that qualifies them to be the Savior.

- ☞ **Only Jesus met the requirements** to be Savior, exactly as the Bible said he must.
- ☞ **No one else in all of human history** met these requirements, except Jesus.

I have really taken my time with this part of the study on purpose.

- ☞ **I don't want you to miss how important** it is that Jesus is uniquely qualified to be the ONLY SAVIOR of the world.
- ☞ **There is not another person** that has ever been born who can match what we just learned about Jesus this morning.
- ☞ **So when some church or religious organization**, or some person comes to you and claims to be the WAY TO HEAVEN, **check what they say with what you learned today.**

Ask them: “***Are you born of a virgin?*** **No**, then you can’t be the Savior.

Is your leader without sin? **No**, then he can’t be the Savior.

Did you savior fulfill all 300 of the Old Testament prophecies about the Savior?

No, then He can’t be the Savior...

The Father intended that as you see from His promises in His Word, how you could know for certain who the Savior is, IT IS JESUS, and you can have confidence that Jesus is the ONLY ONE.

In the town square, there was an Atheist lecturing to the crowd of how the Christian faith was nonsense.

He invited any who were standing there listening, to speak up and try to discredit what he had said.

From far in the back of the gathering, the town drunk began to push his way through the enormous group.

He took an orange from out of his pocket and began to tell the people how Jesus Christ had changed him from a drunk into a brand new creation.

After he finished the last piece of the orange, the born again man asked the atheist:

“Was that orange that I just ate sweet or was it sour?”

Angrily the atheist shot back, ***“You idiot, how can I know whether or not it was sweet or sour when I have never tasted it?”***

The born again man said to the atheist: ***“Then how can you know anything about Jesus Christ unless you have tasted of Him...?”***

[Psalms 34:8](#)

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

We have spent a lot of time this morning looking at the line of descendant of Jesus.

- ☞ **Because Jesus had the right line**, He was qualified to be the Only Savior of the World.
- ☞ **If you give your life fully to Jesus Christ this morning**, you are instantly added to His line of descendants.
- ☞ **Because you now are in the Right line of descendants**, you are qualified to live forever.

☞ **You them become a permanent citizen of Heaven**, not because of what you have done in your life, **but because of whom you have believed in...**