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Master's Answers to The Questions

Question: Why was Jesus descended from the line of Judah?

Answer: The restoration, the separation from Satan, has to be fulfilled through the Cain and Abel relationship. Cain and Abel, therefore, had to struggle between themselves. The God favored Abel position required Cain to subject himself to Abel, or for Abel to subjugate Cain. This was the first such instance in the history of the Restoration Providence after the fall.

The next instance was Esau and Jacob. At this time, Jacob laid the foundation because Esau subjugated himself to Jacob. The struggle which occurred between Esau and Jacob actually occurred in a closer relationship than that between Cain and Abel, because Esau and Jacob were not only brothers but twins.

This means that God was narrowing down the person from whom the line of the Messiah would come. This narrowing down process reached its ultimate conclusion in the line of Judah with Perez and Zerah. These were the children of Judah and Tamar, and they struggled for their position in the womb of their mother. The struggle then had been narrowed down from brothers to twins to children as yet unborn.

In this last case, the one in the Abel position overcame the one in the Cain position in the womb. Perez was to have been the second son, but he overcame this in the womb and was the first to be born. (Gen. 38:27-30)

In this way, the birthright of the first son was restored by birth. By doing this, Perez restored the heavenly lineage, the bloodline. He then could be the ancestor of the Messiah. Without this process, Jesus could not have come from this lineage.

Tamar was actually Judah's daughter-in-law. Judah had three sons, and Tamar was the widow of the first son. It was the custom of the Jews at that time for the brothers to become the husband of their brother's widow. But the second and third sons did not fulfill their duties. In order to have a child to continue the line, Tamar dressed as a prostitute, sat along the roadside, and tempted Judah to have a relationship with

her. From this love relationship came Perez and Zerah.

Solomon was born of Bathsheba, who was not David's wife but the wife of Urriah. Then Ruth, a widow, conceived a child from Boaz and became the grandmother of King David. So in the lineage of Jesus there were several harlots. - Rahab, Tamar, Ruth, and Bathsheba. From this unique geneology, the Messiah had to come.

Question: If Cain had subjugated himself to Abel, would this same narrowing down have had to occur?

Answer: No. It would not have been necessary. If Cain had subjugated himself to Abel, the next generation would have produced the Messiah.

Question: Can you explain Jesus' virgin birth?

Answer: There have been a number of instances in the Bible where the Spirit of God has acted in a birth. For instance, in the story of Abraham and Sarah, Sarah was too old and Abraham was also old. But the Bible says God quickened the womb of Sarah so that she could bear a son. In the same way, the Holy Spirit worked with Mary. It was not done in the sense of producing a child from the union of God with man, but in the sense of God participation in the event. Jesus was born of a father and a mother, just as anyone else is, but in his case the Spirit of God was working also.

Billy Graham Talks About "Revolution in Religion"

Billy Graham is an internationally known, fiery and convincing evangelist through his radio and television programs and his evangelistic crusades around the world.

New Type of Christians

1. He was talking about a revolution in America's religious life that is taking place all around us without any fanfare and practically no publicity. More and more people are seeking-and-finding religious experience outside organized churches.

All over the country, groups have sprung up to bring religion onto the campus, into the factories, into homes. There are the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Youth for Christ, Campus Crusade for Christ, Bible Instruction Clubs. Closely linked to all these is the prayer group movement. There are over a million prayer groups meeting regularly in this country.

Composition of the Group

2. The old barriers between churches are meaningless to most of them. Many of the prayer groups are composed of Protestants, Catholics and Jews. They take a verse from the Bible, and each gives his interpretation of it. Then they pray together, using simple sentences, such as "God, help us to serve you better". Ninety per cent of them meet in homes. There are no class distinctions to the movement, either. These groups flourish in predominantly Negro communities, in upper class suburbs, and in big cities alike.

What has produced these groups?

3. The moral crisis of our times! People are profoundly disturbed by such things as riots in Watts, corruption in politics, business, labor. In their personal lives, many are discovering that material wealth just isn't enough to satisfy the human soul. Thus far, they are searching for spiritual meaning in their immediate lives, trying to solve their own spiritual problems, to help friends and neighbors. But in the long run, Billy Graham thinks these people will have a tremendous impact on our society. Why?

The Future Perspectives

4. Two hundred years ago, England had a similar revival, for similar reasons. The country was wracked by immorality and tremendous social problems, such as child labor, slavery in its colonies. Men like John Wesley and George Whitefield began a religious revival outside the established church, using prayer groups, meetings in city streets and fields. Years later, their followers changed the whole structure of English society, abolishing child labor and slavery, creating a new morality in government and the beginning of social conscience in business.

5. Billy Graham believes that these new Christians in America may do the same thing, even by means of modern communication systems; but he hopes that they stay unorganized as they are today. He points out that we already have too much organization in our religious life. Fortunately, in most of the churches, this new movement has been greeted with warm encouragement.

(Source: "This Week", Dec. 26, 1965 Issue)

James Freeman Clarke said:

"Religion is life, philosophy is thought;
Religion looks up, friendship looks in.
We need both thought and life, and we need
That the two shall be in harmony."

Brief News Reels:

Bay Area, California

Since Miss Kim left for Washington, D.C., the Bay Area Centers continue to hold Sunday morning service at one of the centers. The speaker and center where meetings will be held will be rotated in order to increase and strengthen the Bay Area centers and their families.

As of December, 1965, seven centers have been established. They are Oakland, San Francisco, Berkeley, San Mateo, and a second center has been established in each of the following areas: Berkeley, San Francisco, and Oakland.

Recently, Pearl World opened a new center in San Mateo; and Mr. Nishikawa, Daikan and Miss Lim opened a new Japanese center near the seaside and Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

In response to the training in Washington, D.C., several local training

programs are under way. In the Bay Area, the plan will be to have weekend training courses because most of the members are working during the week.

For three days, Mrs. Esther Carroll and daughter, Linda, visited Berkeley where Mr. David Kim is staying. They enjoyed their visit to the newly established Japanese center in San Francisco.

Seattle, Washington

Since Pauline Phillips visit to the Northwest Area, the young people have begun their positive move in this work. They meet regularly on Thursday for study and lecturing. Sundays they spend witnessing. They have recovered their zeal and enthusiasm to do the Father's Will. They also plan to hold a monthly gathering of the entire Northwest family, and they will meet in turn in Seattle, Washington and in Portland, Oregon.

Mr. David Kim visited the Seattle family and spent one day with the young people, exchanging opinions on witnessing and future development in this work.

Portland, Oregon

Esther Carroll and daughter, Linda, spent three days in the Bay Area. It was a blessing to meet again with the Martins in Oakland and to visit the other members in Berkeley, San Francisco, and San Mateo.

Thursday was spent in teaching Divine Principles to a couple in San Jose. They are now studying the Principles and they have promised to seriously study and consider these many revolutionary truths of the Divine Principles. There is great hope for them, so please pray for the Modins in San Jose.

It was a blessing to visit again with Mr. Nishikawa and to meet for the first time, Daikan and Miss Lim. Friday was spent with them and we shared many things. We ate together, went sightseeing, and we shared in many blessings. What a blessing it was to see such dedicated and enthusiastic young people. They have opened a new center in San Francisco, and under the very capable leadership of Mr. Nishikawa we know the center will quickly grow. We can learn many things from our Japanese family. They have so much love, zeal, enthusiasm and dedication to our Master and this work.

We left for Portland very early Sunday morning. Mr. David Kim returned to Portland with us for a few days. His coming to Portland is always a time of blessing and a time for sharing many things. We miss him here in our area, but we know he is a blessing to the California families.

Gerald Johnson returned from Chicago, Illinois to Portland during the Christmas holidays. He was happy to meet the new family members in Portland that have joined us since he left on his mission to Chicago. Gerald is staying in Portland. He is studying and preparing for his new assignment. His enthusiasm, his smiling face, and his inspiring music are a real blessing to us.

Pauline Phillips left for Boise, Idaho on December 31st to work with Vernon Pearson. She has been a blessing to our Northwest families, and

she has greatly encouraged the young people to work and witness more actively for our Master. We feel confident that from now on the work in this area will grow more quickly. We will continue to pray for Pauline as she gives so much of herself to others. Through her efforts the members of the Northwest families have united in a closer relationship.