

The Mustard Seed Advent, 21-June-2014

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Right of the First Believers

...Continuing Saga...

T_____,

You continue in your query. Now you say,

I did not seek scriptural evidence. Where did you see those words? I specifically requested evidence of your lineage. In other words, a family tree, that could be researched and verified. Jesus lineage is recorded and verifiable, written right there in the Bible. Which son of David did you come from? Which son of that son? Etc.

You use the example of Jesus and the recorded evidence of his lineage, but I must ask you the following: Are you being thoughtful in this analysis, or are you being superficial and hasty in your reply? If the latter is the case, then my response will cause you to feel embarrassed and resentful. This will occur, not only because I deliver to you the promised “straight testimony”, but also because you have not heeded my appeal to avoid a hapless approach to strong meat.

First, I must say, the story of Jesus’ birth which you cite is recorded in the Bible for one simple reason —there is no other— His birth is on record because the disciples believed Mary’s account of Jesus’ birth as it was explained to her by the word of God expressed through Gabriel. It was not as if the gentiles and the heathen were sitting, with bated breath, waiting for the next news release from Jerusalem. Instead of that, they were all, like you —extremely disinterested. There were many, many skeptics even in the church 2000 years ago. Unlike all the skeptics of that day, the disciples were counted among the very few (12) first believers. Accordingly, the story was not only recorded, but it was passionately broadcasted to the gentile world and done so at the risk of ridicule, reviling, and the hazard of death. Why so much resistance?—simply because the world did not find solace in the evidence which God was pleased to give them. The Lord closed His ministry with a prayer that indicated as much. He said the following:

“I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world...I pray for them: I pray not for the world...¹⁴I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world...²⁰Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word... ²¹that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” —John 17: 6, 9, 14, 20, 21.

The gospel of Jesus’ birth was disseminated by the faithful 12; accordingly, it was not founded in scientific research. It became a matter of faith, and that new, original, non-archeologically revealed, un-courthouse-recorded story changed the world. Those gentiles who believed it congealed together into nations who grew by divine grace to rule the entire world. And look at the marvelous contributions to the globe that has thereby resulted. The same will occur to the world by my ministry, and 2000 years in the future of it, should there then be people of ingratitude and presumption, they will do, as you have done, and take for granted the challenges in faith which originally caused the emergences of the son of David in this day. The Bible calls those few who today believe, men like your Dad —not just disciples but— *disciples indeed*. It says,

“As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” —John 8: 30-32.

Your Dad, Jim, has the audacity to see a special spark in the heart of his children, and he accordingly dares to dream —such is the faltering of disciples— that you/they too could rise above fear and intimidation so as to be counted among the first believers, those who open the Word of God and believe the evidence therein supplied. Men who respect God’s power to hide the truth and reveal it unto the “babes”, people of fundamental faith, is now their passion. Yet, their faith is engendered by wisdom. They understand that humanity has no other keystone to anchor their hope

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in the future. They all sit and haplessly wait for good fortune to befall them. When it does not, they hope to beg the faithful for mercy and for a portion of their grace. But disciples, rather than give up their own blessings, seek to bestow upon their loved ones the same fountain from which they drink: They seek to purvey to them the rights of the first believers.

The wise know that even in today's modern society there are no county courthouse clerks or record-keeping officials who can reliably trace the lineage of an individual back past a couple generations, the span of time which allows for a paternity test. In many cases, those who think that they can, must depend upon the reliability of honest, parental accounting of sexual history. In many cases, such information is falsified because of societal standards; in other words, parents often lie to protect their reputations. And, beyond that, even for the honest parents, they cannot, with certainty, trust that their own professed knowledge of their historic lineage handed to them was relayed in honesty. Even more perplexity prevails when you consider that the parents, though they may be honest in their paternity assumptions, may have had multiple, sexual partners at the time of conception, and their promiscuity becomes an added variable of perplexity. These facts in mind, you can see why I disrespect your appeal for empirical data. I do not know what type of evidence anyone can provide that will escape the scrutiny of the cynic. Therefore I trust the Lord's word.

You spoke of Jim's claims. You said, "***My father has made the claim, several times, based on your teachings, that Jesus is not the Christ.***" I have sat with Jim; I've fielded his concerns, I taught him; thus, I know that he teaches no such thing. Such is a misunderstanding and misrepresentation of His words. He, like the MSC, teaches that Jesus and Christ are separate entities, and that Christ, as covenanted, clandestinely rested and abode upon Jesus in the form of a Dove at Jesus' anointing; He abode upon Him for the duration of His, Jesus' ministry; then, at Calvary, they separated. Hence, Jesus is called Jesus Christ. It is wrong to bear false witness — especially against one's own dad— and to dissemble the words and work of another man even if it is done to protect one's insecurities, one's fear of isolation and change. In any case, Jim is over eight decades old; he has evidently done many things right which should inspire his children with much deference. Ideally, his children should sit at his feet and seek wisdom instead of mocking it, making light of it, and dissembling it. In other words, they should turn their hearts toward their father.

In the case of the son of David, I gave to you the clearest evidence: the promise that he will emerge in the last day and declare the name of the Lord. If none other has so done and the MSC has indeed so done, then, for those who trust the Lord, this is insurmountable evidence, and beyond that specific argument, I offer even more. If you cannot accede to that logic, then you cannot accede to any other Bible evidence which I provide. But now you say that you do not even want Bible evidence; consequently, your problem is not with my claim to be the son of David; instead, it is with my faith in the Word. I only seek to teach people who believe in Christ's Righteousness. He says of Himself, "**I have not spoken in secret...I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right**" —Isa 45: 19.

More of your misguided search for evidence: Again, you say, "***I did not seek scriptural evidence.***" Your search is in vain if you seek to answer Bible issues by non-Bible answers. Why would God call men to His word and then use the work of a secular office clerk or that of an atheist archeologist to prove His promises? My audios and my written work all hinge upon Bible faith, and if you reject the Lord's righteousness from the beginning, if you believe that He is not worthy of our trust and faith, then I can offer you no support or help for I am anchored in His word.

Regarding the attendance to my seminar, you say, "***Thank-you for the invitation to Pittsburgh. I will not be attending. Unlike my father, I am not retired with freedom to go where and when I want at the drop of a hat.***" Your dad's freedom is indeed a great achievement, and you wisely acknowledge it. Few, even at his age have the freedom and the mobility to travel. The Lord has indeed blessed him because of his faith. He can bless you too and give to you the same graces for this is the promise of His word. May you, in wisdom seek to win the blessings of His promises.

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Sincerely,
Derek