

PathLights

"Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path"
Psalm 119:104

August 12, 2018

Lessons from a Genealogy (3)

by Frank Himmel

Some people have an avid interest in family history. I can remember as a child spending some of our vacation time traipsing through old cemeteries, looking for markers of distant relatives. Others have little regard for such things. Among other reasons, they may be afraid of what they will find!

Matthew's gospel opens with Jesus' genealogy, and it is certainly a "mixed bag" of characters. On the one hand, there are outstanding people such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. These men were not flawless by any means—the Bible writers objectively record their failures along with their successes—but they were good, faithful men. On the other hand, the list includes some of the most ungodly men in Judah's history.

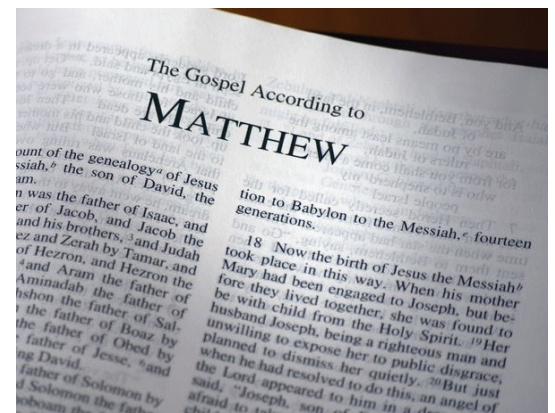
One section of the genealogy particularly stands out to me: "Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham was the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah" (vv. 9-10).

Uzziah was a good king until his pride took over late in his reign (2 Chronicles 26). His son Jotham was also a good man (2 Chronicles 27). But Jotham's son Ahaz

was among the worst of Judah's kings, going so far as to offer one of his sons to an idol (2 Kings 16:3). Ahaz's son Hezekiah was a great king, who did all he could to restore service to the Lord (2 Chronicles 29-31). Yet his son Manasseh was a terrible man whose first order of business was to undo all of Hezekiah's reforms. "He did much evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger" (2 Chronicles 33:6). Amon was just like him, but then Josiah was more like his great-grandfather Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 34-35).

This section of the genealogy vividly reminds us that *godly children do not just happen*. What went wrong in some generations? I do not know. Perhaps some of these fathers were more inconsistent examples than we know. They may not have been active enough in teaching their sons or firm enough in disciplining them. They may have been too busy running the kingdom and neglectful at home. On the other hand, they may have done their very best, but their sons chose to reject their good upbringing. It happens. The point is, parents must never just assume their children will learn to do right. We must make every effort to

"bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). ■



Abominations

by Frank Himmel

The word *abomination* suggests intense aversion or loathing; vile, shameful, detestable, disgusting activity. Here is a list of things the Bible says are an abomination to God.

- Idolatry (Deuteronomy 27:15)
- Occult practices (Deuteronomy 18:9-12)
- Human sacrifices (Jeremiah 32:25)
- Adultery (Jeremiah 13:27; cf. 5:8)
- Prostitution (Deuteronomy 23:18)
- Homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13)
- Sex changing (Deuteronomy 22:5)
- Deviousness (Proverbs 3:32)
- Wickedness in rulers (Proverbs 16:12)
- Dishonest business dealings (Proverbs 11:1)
- Lying (Proverbs 6:17; 12:22)
- Pride (Proverbs 16:5)
- Arrogance (Proverbs 6:17)
- Murder (Proverbs 6:17)

- Evil thinkers and doers (Proverbs 6:18)
- False witnesses (Proverbs 6:19)
- Sowers of discord (Proverbs 6:19)
- Perverting right and wrong (Proverbs 17:15)
- Worship from wicked people (Proverbs 15:8; 28:9)

All these references are in the Old Testament. While we are no longer under it, there is *nothing* in the New Testament to remotely suggest that now God views *any* of this conduct differently. Many of these sins are also specifically condemned in the gospel.

I hope you noticed that the list includes thoughts and speech as well as conduct. And it covers the entire spectrum of life: personal dealings and relationships, business activities, politics, physical relations, even religious practices. And this is not an exhaustive list.

This is a stark reminder that much of the behavior our world accepts and even celebrates is the grossest misbehavior in the sight of our Creator and Judge. Don't ever lose sight of that. ■



Service Leaders for the Week		
	Sunday	Wednesday
GREETER SONG LEADER OPENING PRAYER LORD'S SUPPER BREAD CUP CONTRIBUTION PRAYER SERMON/INVITATION CLOSING PRAYER	Greg Winget Bruce Williams Steven Turner Clifton Lefort Ray Moore William Lefort Frank Himmel J B Williams	Josh Baucom Gary Hagler Singing Adam Wilson