

Sevens in Luke's Genealogy *Luke 3:23-38*

There are 77 (7 x 11) generations between Adam and Jesus in Luke 3:23-38

#1 Adam	#8 Methuselah	#15 Eber	#22 Isaac	#29 Amminadab	#36 Nathan	#43 Judah	#50 Er	#57 Zerubbabel	#64 Maath	#71 Janni
#2 Seth	#9 Lamech	#16 Peleg	#23 Jacob	#30 Nahshon	#37 Mattatha	#44 Simeon	#51 Elmadam	#58 Rhesa	#65 Naggi	#72 Melki
#3 Enosh	#10 Noah	#17 Reu	#24 Judah	#31 Salmon	#38 Menna	#45 Levi	#52 Kosam	#59 Joanan	#66 Esli	#73 Levi
#4 Kenan	#11 Shem	#18 Serug	#25 Perez	#32 Boaz	#39 Melea	#46 Matthat	#53 Addi	#60 Joda	#67 Nahum	#74 Matthat
#5 Mahalalel	#12 Arphaxad	#19 Nahor	#26 Hezron	#33 Obed	#40 Eliakim	#47 Jorim	#54 Melki	#61 Josech	#68 Amos	#75 Eli
#6 Jared	#13 Kainan	#20 Terah	#27 Aram	#34 Jesse	#41 Jonan	#48 Eliezer	#55 Neri	#62 Semein	#69 Mattathias	#76 Joseph
#7 Enoch	#14 Shelah	#21 Abraham	#28 Admin	#35 David	#42 Joseph	#49 Jesus	#56 Shealtiel	#63 Mattathias	#70 Joseph	#77 Jesus

Luke has designed the genealogy so that multiple “sevens” conclude with a key patriarch¹

- Enoch is in the 7th position (as he is in Gen 5:21),
- The only ancestor of Jesus to share his name [Ἰησοῦς, 3:29] is in the 49th position (echoing the ten Jubilee cycles of Daniel 9)
- Jesus himself is in the 77th position.

According to the Book of the Watchers in 1 Enoch, the Day of Judgment was to take place seventy generations after Enoch:

*And the Lord said to [the archangel] Raphael: "Bind [the rebel] Azazel hand and foot and throw him into the darkness!"
And Raphael made a hole in the desert, which was in Dudael, and cast him there. On top of him, he threw rugged and sharp rocks.
And he covered Azazel's face in order that he may not see light and [...] may be sent into the fire on the great day of judgment. [...]
And to Michael the Lord said: "[...] **Bind them for seventy generations** underneath the rocks of the ground **until the day of their judgment** is concluded." (1 Enoch 10:4-6, 11-12)*

¹ The following observations are noted by Tim Mackie

“Luke’s genealogy embodies a claim about Jesus’ identity. It gives Jesus the place of ultimate significance in world history. It includes and highlights his descent from David by the non-royal line as the prophesied messianic son. However, he is more than just a new David. David has his own special place as the fifth “seventh,” as does Abraham as the third “seventh, but Jesus’ position at the end of the eleventh seven, in the seventy-seventh generation surpasses that of every predecessor from Adam onwards. He is greater than Enoch and greater than Abraham and David. He is the consummation of human history.”

Bauckham, “The Lukan Genealogy of Jesus,” 365