Week Forty-Five

Days 309–315



THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

Maccabean Revolt Narrative: 2 Maccabees 12–15 | Supplemental: Wisdom 13–19; Proverbs 25:11–23

Messianic Fulfillment Narrative: Luke 1–8 | Supplemental: Proverbs 25:24–26:3

RESURRECTION FORESEEN AS THE OLD TESTAMENT ENDS



Saint Luke by Giorgio Vasari

The final chapters of 2 Maccabees recount some final battles and violence but ultimately end with the Jews in control of their country. This autonomous control did not last. Rome was growing in dominance and would shortly come to rule the Judean kingdom. While the Jews were undergoing persecution once again, God the Son, through the mystery of the Incarnation, became man. Especially important in Luke's Gospel is his emphasis on Jesus as the universal Savior of all of mankind.

- In 2 Maccabees 12 and 13, we read about a lot of destruction, death, and war. We also see examples of people praying for the dead.
- After one battle, the Jews go out to collect the bodies of the dead and discover amulets on them, which are forbidden by the Law.
- Judas Maccabeus takes up a collection and sends two thousand drachmas of silver to Jerusalem as a sin offering for the men who have died. This indicates the importance of praying for the dead.
- As we turn to Luke's Gospel, we see some similarities to the prophecy fulfillment passages we read in Matthew. In the case of Luke's Gospel, he makes sure to show the connections in Jewish history to their fulfillment in Jesus Christ.
- For example, the angel Gabriel appears to Zechariah and tells him that his son will be a prophet "in the spirit and power of Elijah" (Luke 1:17). Here we see a reference to the prophecy that Elijah (in the figure of John the Baptist) would precede the coming of the Messiah.
- Also, the Ark of the Covenant carried the Ten Commandments, the Word of God, and the manna, the "bread from heaven" (John 6:31). Mary, the Ark of the New Covenant, carries the Word made flesh, the author of the Law, and "the living bread which came down from heaven" in her womb (John 6:51).
- Finally, Luke's genealogy of Jesus differs from Matthew's. Whereas Matthew brought Jesus' human lineage back to Abraham to demonstrate the fulfillment of the covenant, Luke shows how Jesus' human lineage traces back to Adam. This shows that the fulfillment of God's work with the Jews is universal in its significance for all human beings.

Dive Deeper

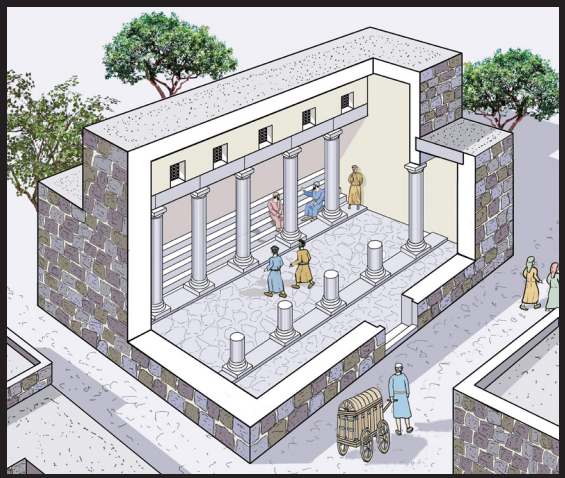
Is there any sin (or sins) you tend to give yourself a "pass" on because it is unobserved? If so, seek out the Sacrament of Reconciliation and confess it, trusting in God's mercy and forgiveness. Resolve to take concrete steps to address this "hidden" sin.

Bible Answers

Why does Jesus refer to himself as the Son of Man?

We might conclude that the title "Son of God" refers to Jesus' divinity while "Son of Man" refers to his humanity. This is a logical, but incorrect, assumption. Non-Jews who were unfamiliar with the Old Testament would have missed the significance of the title Son of Man, but Jesus never needed to explain its profound symbolic meaning to his fellow Jews. They would have understood that "Son of Man" referred to Daniel 7:13–14: "Behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom."

By calling himself the Son of Man, Jesus says he is the one to whom the Ancient of Days (God the Father) gave dominion over all things—in other words, that he is divine. On the feast of Christ the King, we hear this reading from Daniel 7, highlighting Jesus' role as the Son of Man.



SYNAGOGUE IN CAPERNAUM

This is a reconstruction drawing of the synagogue of Capernaum in which Jesus teaches and heals the man with an unclean spirit (see Luke 4:31-37).

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