



Christmas Under Wraps

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Luke 2:8-11

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⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.



The Gospel that begins with the birth of Jesus is not good advice. It is good news.



Shepherds were generally looked down upon in their communities because their work caused them to miss many of the religious activities.





Pharisees considered shepherds members of an unclean profession, and the high society types despised them as vulgar lower-class workers.





When His son was born,
God wasn't looking for
people trying to do great
things. He went looking for
people doing small things
faithfully.





"Advice is counsel about what you must do. News is a report about what has already been *done*. Advice urges you to make something happen. News urges you to recognize something that has already happened and to respond to it...



Of course the Christian Gospel has massive implications for how you live. But it is first of all a message that you need to be saved, and you are saved not in the slightest by what you can do but rather by what he has done."

(Tim Keller)

Matthew 1:1-3

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This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar...

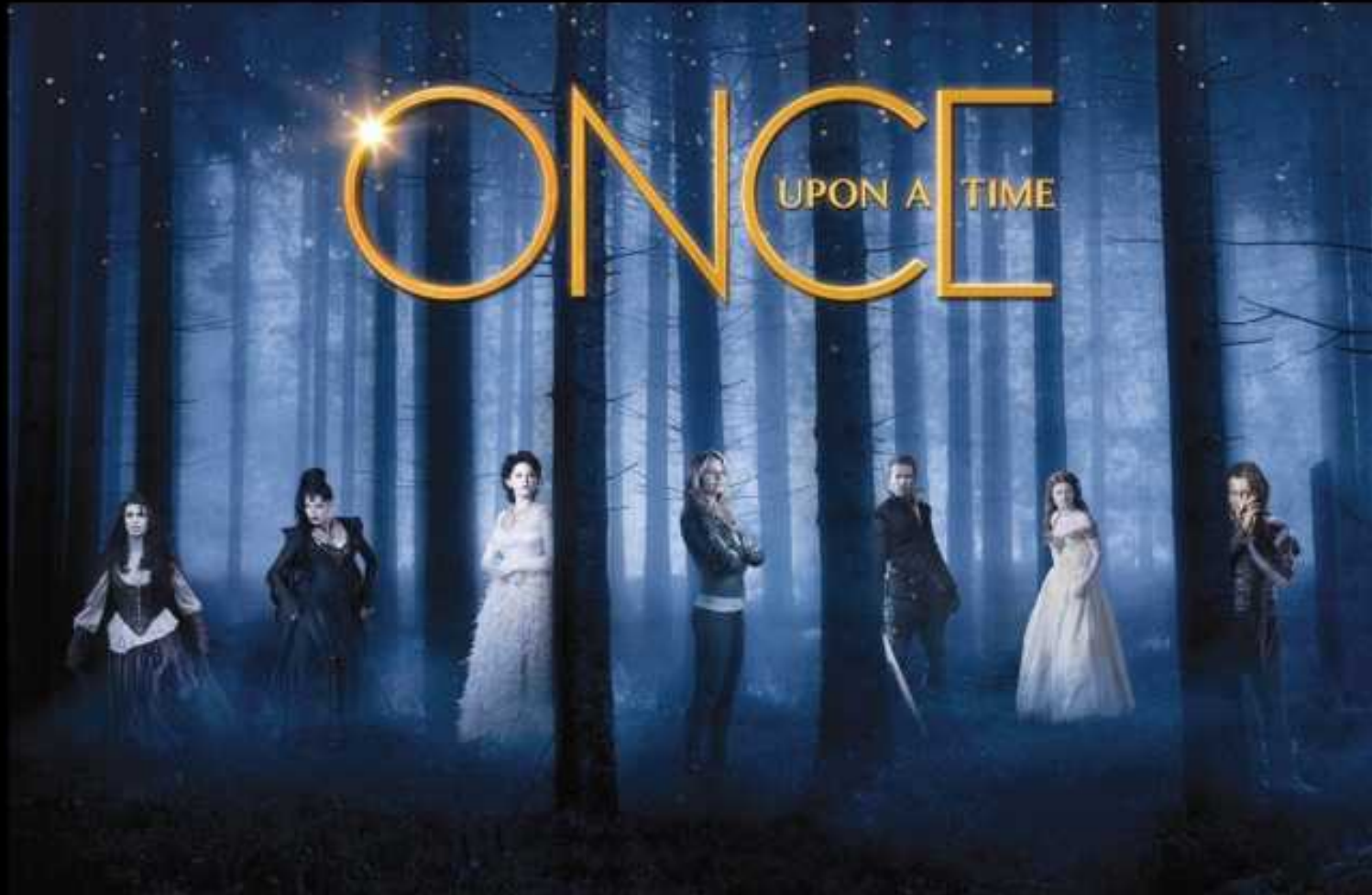


The story of the birth of Jesus is not a fairy tale or moralistic fable. It is an account of a real, historical event.



The “good news” of the birth of Jesus does not come out of nowhere! It comes out of a long line of decedents of Jewish people that stretched all the way back to Abraham!

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"The great fairy tales and legends reveal that deep in the human heart there are desires to experience the supernatural, to escape death, to know love that we can never lose, to not age but live long enough to realize our creative dreams, to fly, to triumph over evil...



Our hearts sense that even though the stories themselves aren't true, the underlying realities behind the stories are somehow true or *ought to be*."

(Tim Keller)

Matthew 1:3, 5, 6, 16

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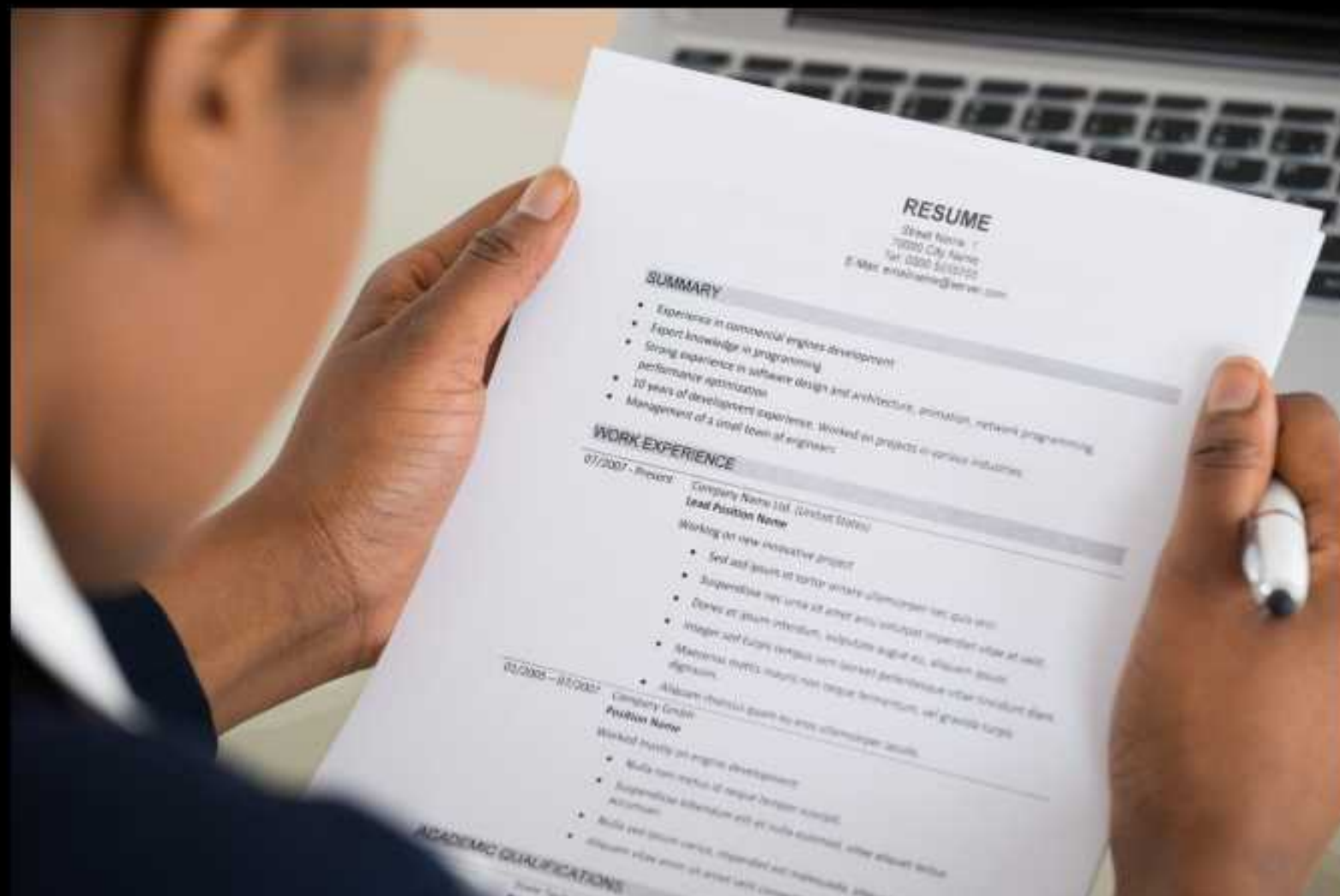


Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar... Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth... David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife... and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.



The backstory of the life of Jesus is not just as messy and complicated as your life. It is significantly more messy and complicated!

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RESUME

Street Name, 1
70000 City Name
Tel: 0000 5610100
E-Mail: emailname@server.com

SUMMARY

- Experience in commercial engine development
- Expert knowledge in programming
- Strong experience in software design and architecture, prototyping, network programming, performance optimization
- 10 years of development experience. Worked on projects in various industries
- Management of a small team of engineers

WORK EXPERIENCE

07/2007 - Present

Company Name Ltd. (United States)
Lead Position Name

Working on new innovative project

- Set and drove an entire virtual development team with
- Supervised new hires at every level including independent staff at work
- Drove at every iteration, including design, development, testing, deployment
- Managed and guided various team members, including design, development, testing, deployment
- Managed various projects, including design, development, testing, deployment

03/2003 - 07/2007

Company Name
Position Name

Worked heavily on engine development

- Made new method of engine design and development
- Supervised development and at every iteration, including design, development, testing, deployment
- Made new design, including design, development, testing, deployment
- Managed various projects, including design, development, testing, deployment

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS



In the ancient world of Jesus, the only resumé you had was your lineage. Who you came from was who you were.



In the genealogy of the Son of God, we see a woman's name listed... five times...

And... the names of the women brought up in the genealogy of Jesus cause us to bring to light some of the most scandalous stories in this lineage!



"People who are excluded by culture, excluded by respectable society, and even excluded by the law of God can be brought in to Jesus' family... It is not the good people who are in and the bad people who are out. Everyone is in only by the grace of Jesus Christ. It is only what Jesus has done for you that can give you standing before God." (Tim Keller)



The unfolding of the Kingdom of God in our world will not happen at the speed we desire. It will only be revealed at the divinely discerned pace of grace.



Number of years between Abraham and David: 1,100



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Number of years between King David and the exile
to Babylon: just shy of 500 years



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Number of years between King David and the exile to Babylon: just shy of 500 years

Number of years between the return from exile to the birth of Jesus: 500 years

1 Peter 3:9

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⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Closing Reflections

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Have you responded to the invitation to “seek and find” Jesus and embrace His good news?

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Do you mentally exclude yourself from having unique experiences with God because you're not the "right" kind of person, or because your life is too boring and mundane?

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What kind of ugly stuff is in your past? Or in your present? Have you mistakenly believed that it has put an impossible distance between you and becoming part of the family of God?

Closing Reflections

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Are you stuck waiting for something? Are you growing weary of God's silence and (apparent) lack of activity? Invite the Spirit to bring the peace and contentment of God's presence into your soul.



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