

# Wednesday Night Bible Study

## August 26, 2020

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### Recap

If we can do something to hasten the Second Coming, how does that fit with the idea that God has already fixed a time Christ is coming?

- 2 Peter 3:10
  - We can “hasten” the Day of the Lord
  - The Western mind has trouble reconciling this. But that is because we’re used to thinking “either/or.” The Eastern mind would have no trouble reconciling two seemingly opposing ideas. Ask a Rabbi which is true: is the time fixed for Jesus’ return, or can we hasten it--make it come quicker?” and they will answer, “yes. Both are true.”

### Today’s Study

Luke 4:16

- Jesus being from Nazareth
  - Nazareth was a blip on the radar
  - Some ancient maps didn’t even list it
  - Of all the cities for God Himself to have been raised in, Nazareth was last on the list.
  - It was a hotbed of Messianic activity
    - Isaiah 11 is a passage about the coming Messiah

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- "A **shoot** will grow from the **stump** of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit."
  - Shoot = "Netzer"
  - Stump = "Tzemach"
  - Matthew 1 shows Jesus' lineage, with Jesus coming straight from David (who is Jesse's son). He is, to follow the metaphor, the "shoot" off of Jesse's "stump"
  - "Nazareth" and "Netzer" share a root. The words are related
  - All of the prophets say what the Messiah's name will be:
    - Zechariah 3:8
    - Zechariah 6:12
    - Jeremiah 23:5
    - Isaiah 4:2
  - Nazareth was called, sarcastically, "shootville." Everyone was OBSESSED with lineage, because everyone there expected the Messiah to come from there. Everyone knew everyone's lineage. Hence, "Aren't you Joseph's son?" (John 6:42)

### **Some Peripheral Rabbit Trails**

- Gospel Categorization
  - Luke: only chronological (or closest to it) Gospel
  - Mark: most in-depth in regards to backstory
  - Matthew: most Hebraic gospel
  - John: Latest Gospel
  
- Jesus died at 33 in 30AD

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- We can historically timestamp when Jesus was born. Luke tells us that Caesar Augustus sent out a census, which is something we can historically timestamp.
  
  - How long was Jesus' ministry?
    - He starts His Rabbinic ministry at 30. We know this because He was a Jewish man--and 30 is when Rabbis began their ministry.
    - Look at John 2. Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine
  
  - On Jesus cleansing the Temple
    - 253 High Priests since Aaron. In 1400 years.
    - 140 High Priests from 170BC to 70AD
      - This is because the Sadducees were in charge. They were, in essence, buying the office. It became an essentially political issue.
      - Jesus may have only cleansed the temple once, because as a new Rabbi with no following or notoriety to speak of, the Sadducees most likely would have immediately--and forcefully--opposed Him.