

Cainan the son of Sala.

The 'Cainan' in Luke 3:36 is not listed in Genesis.

This apparent Bible anomaly has been raised in response to the December editorial "Is Faith Reasonable?"

There are two Cainan's listed in Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:36 & 37). It is suggested that the one in verse 36 might be a serious mistake because it is not listed in Genesis 10:24 or 11;12,13. Even so it is in the Koine text preserved by the Greek church and all known ancient N.T. manuscripts.

So is there an explanation why it is not in the Genesis listings? There are three factors to be born in mind:

- 1) Terms like "begot" etc. do not always refer to the immediate offspring or parent. (e.g. Matthew 1:1,8 and in Hebrews 7:9-10 where Abraham is called Levi's father).
- 2) Lists serve a purpose and so irrelevant names might be omitted (c.p. Ezra 7:1-5, 1.Chronicles 6:3-15).
- 3) Rights of succession might skip generations.
For example, Jacob's son Joseph was not made the head of a tribe. His sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, were adopted by their grandfather and became the patriarchal heads of two of Israel's tribes. (Genesis 48:5,6)

In Genesis chapter 11 the subject is chronology.

Each patriarch's age is stated at the birth of the next in succession. This makes it possible to add together the years between births and establish an accurate time-line.

On the other hand Doctor Luke is concerned with Jesus' physical, blood lineage. So he lists Jesus' male progenitors. That is why he begins by making it clear that Jesus was not Joseph's physical son, and that Jesus' nearest male blood ancestor was Mary's father, Heli.

*"Also Jesus himself was just turning thirty years of age, being (*even though he was supposed to be the son of Joseph) ** of **the Heli**" (Luke 3:23 direct translation).*

*[Greek $\omega\varsigma$ - adverb of comparison - comparing what he was thought to be with what he really was. The comparison is: Jesus having no physical father Mary's father Heli was Jesus' nearest male ancestor.]

**[Here there is no word for "son" in the Greek text]

So from Luke we learn that Sala was the blood offspring of Cainan and Cainan was Arphaxad's blood offspring.

In Genesis 11:12 we learn that Arphaxad was 35 years old when Salah was born. Though unusual, being a grandfather at 35 is not impossible. This might have something to do with why Cainan's name is omitted. However, its omission does not detract from the listings purpose and its usefulness for establishing a chronological time-line.

Cainan's omission from Genesis 10:24 could be because successor-ship in Peleg's lineage skipped him.

CONCLUSION: As there are feasible explanations then there is no reason for claiming that there is a discrepancy.

[Anyone interested in investigating this further can find more suggested explanations on page 34 of Dr. Floyd Nolen Jones book: "The Chronology of the Old Testament" ISBN 10: 0-89051-416X.]

QUESTION BOX