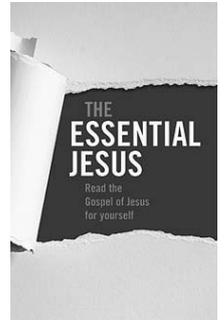




ESSENTIAL JESUS

Bible Study 3

Archbishop Peter Jensen



STEP 1: READING

Read Luke chapter 1: verses 26-56. This begins at the top of page 9 of *The Essential Jesus*.

STEP 2: REFLECTION

The birth of John the Baptist marked him out as a great man. The birth of Jesus marked his greatness as both God and man. His birth to a virgin was foretold by Isaiah, once more reminding us that the coming of Jesus was part of a whole movement of God in creating and saving the world. But it was also the performance of the impossible by God, to remind us of his power. If those who read this Gospel are caught in a bleak world in which there is no God and no hope, the message is that there is both God and hope, especially, as Mary reminds us, for the humble and lowly. Jesus was born into the family line of King David. But, unlike David, his kingdom will have no end. Thus when we look for God and hope, we find them both in Jesus.

STEP 3: DISCUSSION

1 What is the significance of Jesus' descent from David?

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2 What evidence is there in the passage that Luke views Jesus as God?

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3 What are the similarities and differences between the birth stories of John and Jesus? Why does it matter?

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