

GRACE SO AMAZING
IN OBSCURITY

Mt. 1:4

Old Fashioned Sunday

Mt. 1:4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and **Naasson begat Salmon**;

Today our church is celebrating “Old Fashioned Day,” a title which implies that something from a previous era is not in practice at this time. Some of us grew up in an era where things were much different:



❖ There were no flatscreen TV's, only black/white TV's, or console color TV's.



❖ Telephones with rotary wheels and party lines;



❖ Typewriter;



❖ Lawnmower;



❖ Washing machine;



❖ Automobiles with no seatbelts or airbags;



❖ Kids in back of a pickup truck.

Not so very long ago, church services were designed for worship, not entertainment. Congregational singing, prayer, and preaching the Bible dominated the content of the average church service. Church members were more apt to labor in obscurity rather than clamor for recognition and the limelight. Such a description characterizes our focus this morning.

How many of you are familiar with Salmon?

Mt. 1:4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and **Naasson begat Salmon**;

In the history of Israel, Salmon plays a very important part, but most people have never heard of him. I sincerely doubt that very many children were named after him.

Nonetheless, Salmon's life was a wonderful demonstration of grace so amazing.

I. EXISTENCE IN OBSCURITY

- ❖ The present population today is almost 8.1 billion people. How many are internationally known? Even with international media, a very high percentage of people are unknown.
- ❖ Today, about 95,000 people will die. How many people will be impacted by the loss?

❖ The world may not know us, but the Creator of the universe does!

Psa. 139:14 I will praise thee; for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.

Jer. 1:5 **Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee**; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

❖ The Lord has expressed that we are valuable in His sight.

Mt. 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 Fear ye not therefore, **ye are of more value than many sparrows.**

❖ Believers are a special, “peculiar” people to Him!

Deut. 14:2 For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and **the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself**, above all the nations that *are* upon the earth.

1 Pet. 2:9 But **ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

- ❖ Salmon's life was one of obscurity. He is only mentioned a few times in all the Bible.
- ❖ Salmon may be virtually unknown, but he was still greatly important to the Lord.

II. EXTRAORDINARY FROM THE ORDINARY

❖ In spite of Salmon's obscure life, he was the son of the prince of Judah.

Mt. 1:4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and **Naasson begat Salmon;**

Num. 2:3 And on the east side toward the rising of the sun shall they of the standard of the camp of Judah pitch throughout their armies: and **Nahshon the son of Amminadab shall be captain of the children of Judah.**

1 Chron. 2:10 And Ram begat Amminadab; and Amminadab begat **Nahshon, prince of the children of Judah**;

❖ Like Salmon, we are ordinary children with extraordinary relationship with royalty:

1 Jn. 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that **we should be called the sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

❖ Nahshon, the prince of Judah, must have had a powerful influence on Salmon for good.

III. EXEMPLARY FOR OPPORTUNITY

Gal. 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

- ❖ Salmon grew up while traveling through the 40 years in the wilderness while his father was the captain of the tribe of Judah: (see Num. 2:3, 7:12, 10:14, etc.)
- ❖ When Israel attacked Jericho, Rahab the harlot, exhibited her faith in Israel's God.

Heb. 11:31 **By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not**, when she had received the spies with peace.

❖ Salmon was a young man who showed grace to Rahab, overlooking her wicked past.

❖ Salmon and Rahab had a son named Boaz:

Mt. 1:5 And **Salmon begat Booz of Rachab**; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

Ruth 4:20 And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and **Nahshon begat Salmon**,
21 And **Salmon begat Boaz**, and Boaz begat Obed,

❖ The obscure Salmon showed amazing grace to marry Rahab. The decision had eternal and extraordinary ramifications as being in the ancestry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mt. 1:5 And **Salmon begat Booz of Rachab**; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;
6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her *that had been the wife of Urias*;
16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, **of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.**

Summary

- ❖ Salmon, an obscure man in the Bible, though ordinary, made an extraordinary display of amazing grace by making the decision in marrying Rahab the harlot.
- ❖ God's amazing grace transformed Rahab's life and blessed her with a gracious son named Boaz who in turn showed amazing grace to Ruth, the Moabitess.
- ❖ Salmon and Rahab, and Boaz and Ruth, became ancestors to the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ May each of us utilize the opportunities to exhibit to others the amazing grace that God has shown to us.

Conclusion

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and **purify unto himself a peculiar people**, zealous of good works.