

“ISRAEL MY GLORY”

Israel’s Mission, and Missions to Israel

by

John Wilkinson

Copyright © 1894

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

GENEALOGY

TRACTS FOR JEWS NUMBER 5

Jesus Christ, the Son of David

Jew. Our Messiah, when He comes, will certainly be of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah, and also of the house and family of David. I have read Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus, but I cannot make out that Jesus is David’s seed. The genealogy begins all right with Abraham, is continued through David and Solomon right down to Joseph, the husband of Mary. But Joseph was not the father of Jesus even according to the New Testament, so how could Jesus be of the seed of David?

Granting that Joseph was a direct descendant of David, Joseph was no more the father of Jesus than was any ordinary Jew, so the genealogy of Matthew fails to convince a Jew that Jesus was a son of David. Our Psalms state that “**the Lord hath sworn in truth unto David . . . Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne,**” and who can say that Jesus was the fruit of David’s body through Joseph.

And further, if Jesus had been the Son of Joseph, and thus the Son of David, He would have had no right to the throne of David, for Jeconiah is in the genealogy, and none of his seed can ever sit on the throne of David.

Jeremiah 22:30 says distinctly of Jeconiah, “**Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.**”

Don’t you see that we Jews have a good case against the Messiahship of Jesus on two counts:

1st. He must be a direct descendant of David;

2nd, He must have a clear right to the throne of David. — נשבע־יהוה לדוד אמת לא־ישׁוב מִמֶּנָּה מִפְּרֵי בִטְנֶךָ — אִשִּׁית לְבִסֵּא־לֶךָ — “**the Lord hath sworn in truth unto David . . . Of the fruit of thy body will I**

set upon thy throne.” Jesus was not the fruit of David’s body through Joseph, and besides, no descendant of Jeconiah can occupy David’s throne.

Christian. I have listened to your statement not only with patience, but also with sympathetic interest. Your case is strong and clear as far as it goes. I take it that you honestly wish to know the truth on this momentous question, and that if these difficulties can be fairly and candidly met, you will in the interest of truth accept their solution.

Jew. It seems to me impossible to solve such difficulties. Our Hebrew Scriptures predict the advent of a Messiah who should be of David’s seed, and possess a right to David’s throne; and according to Matthew’s genealogy Jesus was not of David’s seed, and had no title to David’s throne. I am interested to know how the Christians explain these difficulties. Please tell me.

Christian. We Christians willingly admit, for it is simple truth, that Jesus was not the seed of David through Joseph, and also that Jeconiah barred the way to David’s throne. Nevertheless it can be as clearly shown that Jesus was a real descendant of David, and has a valid claim to David’s throne; and further, He is the only Person alive now as known to be of David’s seed, and as possessing a right to David’s throne.

Jew. Well, that is new to me, do let me hear what can be said.

Christian. In the first place the Messiah was to be the seed of the woman—זרע—her seed (Genesis 3:15); —זרע—seed, being always applied to the male of man and of beast, with this one exception, we have plainly intimated the miraculous birth of a Deliverer, who was to be a Saviour for the RACE, as well as the Messiah of the Jews. Thus we have Luke, an inspired physician, employed to write a genealogy of Jesus that goes beyond Abraham, up to Adam, and to God.

After the call of Abraham it was made clear that the blessing of all nations was to come through his seed, not through Ishmael, but through Isaac.

Isaac was the child of miracle, and thus typified the miraculous birth of the Messiah, who, according to Isaiah 7:14, was to be the child of a pure Jewish virgin—הנה העלמה הרה וילדת בן—
“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son.”

Now it is very clear that if the Messiah was to be miraculously born of a virgin he could not possibly have a human father; and it is equally clear that the virgin must not only be a Jewess, but also in the direct line of David: that is, she must come out of the loins of David.

Jesus could not have been Joseph’s son without falsifying prophecy, even though being Joseph’s child He would have been David’s seed.

The Scripture must be fulfilled at all cost, so the Messiah must be born of a Jewish virgin without the intervention of a human father.

Now, what follows? Why, that two genealogies are absolutely necessary; one to show the literal fulfillment of prophecy in the miraculous birth of the Messiah from a Jewish virgin, and also as coming from the loins of David; and the other as setting forth the line to the throne of David, and how to reach it.

Jew. I see very plainly that if the Messiah was to be miraculously born of a virgin, and our Scriptures say so, then to have a human father would destroy any claim to be the Messiah, to say nothing of Jeconiah barring the way to David's throne. It seems a matter of necessity that the mother of the Messiah should be a true descendant of David. Is this so?

Christian. Yes, undoubtedly. Luke gives the genealogy of the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was the daughter of Heli, who became the father-in-law of Joseph; Joseph's natural father being Jacob.

Now we shall not only get our difficulties solved, but we shall see how wonderfully God has fenced round the interests of Prophecy and the claim to David's throne.

Nathan was a son of David as well as Solomon, and Nathan is at the head of Mary's genealogy as a descendant of David, as Solomon is at the head of Joseph's. Joseph and Mary are both descendants of David. Joseph is in both the natural and regal line, and Mary in the natural line only.

Jew. But the virgin Mary's name is not mentioned in the genealogy of Luke, so how can you prove even from the New Testament that Mary was really of the seed of David?

Christian. We have two genealogies, two only; one is certainly Joseph's through Solomon, the other as certainly belongs to someone else through Nathan; just as the Prince of Wales is at the head of one line, and the Duke of Edinburgh the head of another, though both children of Queen Victoria. So, then, as Joseph could not be the father of Jesus without falsifying prophecy, we need another genealogy, and as only *one other person* is vitally concerned in the matter, inference is quite as good as a name.

A little boy said one morning to a schoolfellow, "We have another child in our house this morning." The schoolfellow asked, "A boy or a girl." The little fellow said, "Guess." "A boy." "No, guess again." He had no need to guess again, he could safely infer.

Now let us see what evidence we have of Mary's descent from King David. Turn to the 1st chapter of Luke's Gospel, and read verses 26 to 35.

"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him *the throne of his father David*: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

Now all this is so simple, so natural and so beautiful, that it seems to meet all the reasonable demands of those who are looking for a Messiah according to Old Testament prophecy.

Jew. Even should all this be historically true, how does it prove Mary to be of the seed of David?

Christian. The Angel Gabriel, who was sent from God, would certainly know that the child to be born of the Virgin Mary would have no human father, but would be miraculously produced by the power of the Holy Spirit, fulfilling exactly the words of the 2nd Psalm—**בני אתה אני היום ילדתך**—**“Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee;”** and you see the Angel said to the virgin, **the Lord God shall give unto him *the throne of his father David*.** The Virgin Mary must therefore have been in David’s line. Mark well, the Angel does not say, “The Lord God will give Him the throne of David,” but, **“*the throne of his father David*.”**

Jew. But I have another difficulty; it is this, the right to David’s throne was not in the line of Nathan, even though Nathan was a son of David. The right to David’s throne was in the line of Solomon, just as the British throne is not in the line of the Duke of Edinburgh, but in that of the Prince of Wales. Thus while Joseph and Jeconiah bar the way to the throne of David in Matthew’s genealogy, the way to the throne is also barred in Luke’s genealogy by Jesus being born out of the royal line, even granting that the virgin Mary was of David’s seed. Now tell me how you establish the right of Jesus to the throne of David.

Christian. This is also very simple. Put two or three things together. Joseph had a right to David’s throne as being in the royal line, but even he could not occupy the throne which was barred against him by Jeconiah. And then Jesus was not, and could not be, Joseph’s son. The Messiah must be the child of a virgin, and of David’s seed. Jesus was the son of a virgin of David’s seed. Jesus was the son of a virgin, but not in the royal line from Solomon.

Now how is the difficulty solved? Simply by a *marriage* between Joseph and the Virgin mother of the Messiah. Thus Jesus has a right to the throne through Joseph, and is eligible to sit on that throne as David’s son through Mary. By that marriage Jesus escapes the two barriers in the genealogy of Matthew, and walks over the one barrier in the genealogy of Luke.

The two genealogies were necessary. It was necessary that both Joseph and Mary should be of David’s seed. The marriage between Joseph and Mary was also necessary. So you see that the interests of prophecy and the right to David’s throne have been most carefully protected by the Divine hand.

Jew. You must be patient with me, and not call me stupid, and stubborn, and blind, as some Christians do. I have not got all my difficulties on this subject settled yet. Jesus has never sat on the throne of David.

God says in Psalm 89, **“I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant: Thy seed will I establish for ever—**וּבְנֵי לְדָוִד כִּסֵּאךָ **—and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.”**

“His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.” And even the New Testament represents Gabriel as telling the Virgin Mary respecting the child to be born, that **“the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David.”** Now Jesus has never had that throne. How is this explained?

Christian. The true Messiah must first of all fulfil Scripture. The Scriptures say that Messiah must reach His glorious reign through atoning suffering; He must reach the throne by way of the Cross. Speaking of the Messiah in Isaiah 53:10, the Prophet says, **“When Thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.”**

Now a sin offering must be slain before it atoned for sin. The seed then comes after death, which can only mean disciples and not natural seed. And days can be prolonged after death only by resurrection. Messiah’s death in form was to be by crucifixion, as predicted in Psalm 22:16, **“They pierced My hands and My feet.”** Then according to Psalm 16:10, the Messiah’s soul was not to be left in hell (Sheol), and further, **“Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”** Jesus died and rose again. He died for our sins and rose again for (on account of) our justification. He is now at the right hand of the Father according to the 110th Psalm, and will return in glory, according to Daniel 7:13, on the clouds of heaven, to set up His Kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

The genealogies of Matthew and Luke harmonize beautifully with the teachings of Old Testament Scripture respecting the Messiah as the Son of David and the Son of God.

Genealogies, amongst the Jews are now entirely lost, so that the Jews are now shut up to Jesus as Messiah or none. Don’t despair, listen to your brother Paul, **“declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again . . . And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.”** Jesus was born King of the Jews, died King of the Jews, and will return by and by as the acknowledged King of the Jews.

~ end of chapter 16 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
