

Genealogy of Jesus

It is usually assumed that Jesus was a Jew. This study is to examine, not by assumption but scriptural accuracy, the birth of Jesus and how it is that Jesus sprang from Judah as we are told in the book of Hebrews, chapter seven, and verse fourteen.

The generations of the birth of Jesus are listed in the first chapter of Matthew's gospel and in the third chapter of the book of Luke. It is important for us to realize the accuracy of the wording and how the narrative is presented to us. In Matthew's gospel the word "begat or was born" is used and in Luke's gospel the expression "son of" is used. When the word "begat or son" is used, it is always a reference to a direct seed line. When "son of" is used, it is a reference to mean "by law" (son in law, mother in law etc.). Notice in the book of Luke, the 3rd chapter and verse 23. "And Jesus Himself began to be about 30 years of age, being (as it was supposed) the son of Joseph (by law), which was the son of Heli". So then, Joseph had no direct link to Jesus other than by law.

We need to keep in mind that this birth was according to a prophecy written in the book of Isaiah chapter nine verse six and that God was the Father and Joseph was called Jesus' father only through adoption.

In Matthew chapter 1 verse 16 we read, "And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ". Therefore this Heli was actually Mary's father who was of the lineage of Judah. Matthew's generations give us the regal (kingly) line while Luke gives us the natural seed line concerning the mother of Jesus.

To get an accurate birth line of Jesus we would need to start with the forerunner John the Baptist and examine his birth. Luke 1:5- "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zachariah of the course of Abia: and his wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth". The course of Abia was eight in number of 24 courses according to first

Chronicles 24:10 as set up by King David. Only those of the tribe of Levi could serve as priests in the temple. Elizabeth, being a female descendent of Aaron made his priesthood lawful, both Elizabeth and Zachariah being of the tribe of Levi.

When Zachariah was performing his duties in the temple, an angel of the lord appeared to him (Luke 1:11), and told him that his prayer's would be answered in regards to a son. There would be an announcement to Mary also, (Luke 1:35) " and the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that Holy thing that shall be born unto thee shall be called the son of God". And to continue in verse 36- "and behold thy cousin Elizabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren". These are the angel Gabriel's words, and not the words of any man, so this information has to be accurate. Notice she ran to her cousin Elizabeth. If Elizabeth and Mary were cousins, then Elizabeth's mother and Mary's mother had to be sisters. That would mean that Mary's mother was of the lineage of Levi as was Elizabeth. The fulfillment of prophesy had come to past bringing both lines together in Mary, the kingly line through her father Heli being of the tribe of Judah and the priestly line through her mother, being the sister of Elizabeth who was of the tribe of Levi . Physically then, both the king line and the priest line came through Jesus' mother Mary and ordained by God and called a miraculous conception. Her son then became our Lord and called "The Son of God". He then has the right to become our "King of King's" and Lord of Lord's.

But how is it that the book of Hebrews tells us that "it is evident that our Lord sprang from Judah? The word sprang is number 303 in Strong's Concordance and means, "spring up", like the rising of the sun. Our heavenly Father always executes His purpose in a natural way and in Hebrews 2 verse 10 Jesus is called the captain of our salvation.

An important scripture given by the Apostle Paul is written

in Galatians 3 verse 26-29 and reads: “For ye are all children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. For as many of you that have been baptized in Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond or free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Jesus Christ. And if ye be Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise”.

The expression “Our Lord sprang out of Judah” is recorded in Hebrews 7: 14. The subject of what is stated starts in Heb. 6:20, “Whither the forerunner for us entered, Jesus made a High Priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec”. That order of Melchisedec is our subject, and in verse 3 we read, “Without Father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the son of God; abideth a priest continually. This order is no longer reckoned by genealogy and does not pertain to the flesh. The priesthood is not like the former Levitical priesthood, which was interrupted by death. Jesus entered into the order of Melchisedec and became our High Priest forever into an endless life.

Conclusion: Mary’s father (Heli) was of the tribe of Judah. Joseph became Jesus’ father because of law. Mary’s mother was a Levite and sister to Elizabeth’s mother, thus becoming a cousin to Elizabeth. Both Elizabeth and Zechariah had to be of the tribe of Levi for Zechariah to be of the courses of priest that served in God’s temple. Both lines (kingly and priestly) are realized in Jesus Christ through His mother and with God as His Father, He has authority to execute judgment over all His creation. This expression “Our Lord sprang out of Judah”, confirms the fulfillment of prophesy given in Genesis 49: 10- “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver between his feet, until Shiloh come, and unto him shall the gatherings of the people be”. Isn’t that one of the jobs Jesus Christ is doing today, gathering His people?