

The Genealogical Connection of Christ to David

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Matthew 1:1 records:

“The book of the generation (genealogy) of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

The promise of the seed began in Genesis 3:15 and was then connected to Abraham (Genesis 12:3; 22:18; Gal. 3:16). David stems genealogically from Abraham for he is called “the son of Abraham.” In a similar way, Jesus is called the son of David in the sense that He is genealogically tied to David. Jesus has a royal connection to David. He is called the “root of David.”

Revelation 5:5

“And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”

Revelation 22:16 says,

“I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.”

Jesus has a physical tie to David and is in the royal line of David’s dynasty.

Romans 1:3 says:

“Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.”

The seed promise was that the king of God’s chosen people would come through David’s line or lineage (2 Samuel 7:16). A people would generate from David’s loins that would have his royal blood flowing through them and they would continually produce a descendent and heir who was in the Davidic line that would one day rule on the throne.

The House of David



The Bible tells us that the Messiah would NOT stem from the seed of Jechoniah (physical ancestor of David through Solomon) because of his wickedness and sin.

Jeremiah 22:24-30 explains:

“As I live, saith the Lord, though Coniah (same as Jechonias with the prefix removed for Jehovah) the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence; And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans. And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die. But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return. Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? O earth, earth, earth, hear the

word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed (physical seed) shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.”

There was a curse on David’s line through Solomon. Jechoniah was in the physical line of David through Solomon, but his sin cut Solomon’s line off from bringing forth the future **physical** seed of Christ. *The promised physical seed was not promised through Solomon but through Nathan – David’s other son.* God only promised that a **throne** would be established through Solomon (2 Samuel 7:13 – “I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever”). Through Solomon, Jesus had the **legal** right to rule on the throne of David and rule over the kingdom.

In Matthew’s Gospel (Matt. 1:1-16) the **genealogy of Joseph** goes back to Solomon (David’s Son – vs. 6) to prove that Joseph stems from David’s line through Solomon. This genealogical conclusion means that Joseph gave Christ the **legal right** to David’s throne. Christ could only have a legal right to the throne of David through Joseph for a name stands out in red neon lights in this genealogy (“Jechonias” – Matt. 1:11). This man was in David’s line through Solomon, but because he was cursed, no physical (biological) seed stemming from his line could rule on the throne of David. However, Joseph, who was in the line of Jechonias, also had royal blood flowing through His veins (Matt. 1:20 – “Joseph thou son of David”). Therefore, Jesus’ earthly legal relationship with Joseph gave Him a legal ruling right to the throne of David (Matt. 1:7, 12, 16).

In Luke’s Gospel (Luke 3:23-38) **Mary’s lineage** is traced back to David’s other son (Nathan – vs. 31) through whom Christ has a **physical (biological) right** to the promised throne. According to Jewish usage, Mary’s ancestry is given in her father’s name. The Bible says Joseph was "of Heli" or Eli (Luke 3:23). However, since Joseph’s father is said to be Jacob in Matthew 1:16, Heli is most probably Mary’s father. Joseph, then, is his son-in-law.

A physical or biological seed was promised to come through David (2 Samuel 7:16). Through Nathan (David’s other Son) the physical (biological) seed was kept alive. Christ had a physical or biological tie to the throne

through Mary's lineage (seed) which runs back to Nathan (David's Son). So the physical right to rule came through Christ's biological and genealogical ties to Mary (Luke 1:32 – "the throne of his father David").

Kevin Bauder is correct in his Biblical assessment:

"So far so good—but did God not promise David that an actual, biological descendant would occupy the throne? Since He did, then how can Jesus fulfill the Davidic Covenant, even if He meets the provisions that pertain to Solomon? Joseph might give Him legal standing in the line of Solomon, but if Joseph is not the biological father of Jesus, then Jesus cannot trace descent from David through Joseph.

"The answer to this problem lies in Mary's family tree. While Matthew traces Jesus' legal genealogy through Joseph, Luke traces His biological ancestry through Mary (Luke 3:23–38). This genealogy discloses that Mary was also a descendant of King David, but not through Solomon. Mary's ancestor was David's son Nathan (Luke 3:31). While Nathan and his offspring were not the ruling line, they were nevertheless true children of David.

"This means that Jesus can trace His family tree to David on both sides. Through Joseph His legal parentage includes David, Solomon, and Coniah. From them He receives the legal right to rule Israel. Through Mary His biological parentage includes David and Nathan, so Jesus is a true son of David. In other words, Jesus received both the legal and the biological right to the throne of Israel—but because of the virgin birth, He does not fall under the disqualification of Coniah's curse.

"The answer is the virgin birth. Only the virgin birth allows Jesus to inherit from Joseph the legal right to rule and from Mary the biological qualification to rule. If Jesus were not legally the son of Joseph, He would have no claim to the throne. If Jesus were the biological son of Joseph, He would be disqualified from the throne. If Jesus were not a true son of David through Mary, He would lack true royal descent. The virgin birth is essential to Jesus' right to govern Israel. Without the virgin birth, Jesus could not be the Christ, the Messiah who will bring in the promised kingdom."

Conclusion: Joseph gave to Jesus the *legal* title to David's throne and Mary gave Him the *blood or biological* title to the throne of David. Both were brought together by Jesus' genealogical connections with Joseph and Mary who were ancestors of David. Jesus is both the legal and blood heir to the throne of David.