

JOSEPH, FATHER OF JESUS, BY THE SEED OF DAVID

One of the most commonly used verses for the defence of the virgin birth belief is Luke 3:23, which states: ***“And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli.”*** It is believed this verses refers to Joseph's genealogy through another line which is incorrect. The verse makes it seem that Joseph was the birth son of Heli (or Eli) and that he was only rumoured to be the son of Joseph. For those familiar with the Old Testament, they will know that the Messiah was prophesied to come from the lineage of King David. We will look at the genealogy mentioned in the gospel of Luke and compare it to the genealogy described in the gospel of Matthew.

Before we delve into who Jesus' father was and his ancestry, we should consider who Jesus was prophesied to be in terms of his role in this world. When the wise men travelled seeking the important person whose star they had seen in a land east of Israel, they headed to Jerusalem and inquired of Herod where they might find this person. In the account in Matthew 2:1, 2: *“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”* The wise men did not know the exact location where to find the young child, however, they were not in doubt as to the role of this child in regards to his lineage as they had asked *“Where is he that is born King of the Jews?”*. Not only did they know this child would be a king, but this same title they referred to him as (ie. King of the Jews) would foreshadow the crime for which he would be crucified by the Romans. Turning to Matthew 27:11, we read: *“And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.”* In the same chapter, the Roman soldiers mocked Jesus' Jewish “royalty” in verses 28 and 29: *“And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!”* Further on, in verse 37, where they crucified Jesus, they set up over his head the tablet that described his crime which was written in three languages: *“And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”* As Jesus hung upon the cross suffering, he was continually mocked (verses 41, 42): *“Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.”* Now turn back to Matthew 21:4, 5, and 9: *“All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass...And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”* Compare these verses with the prophecies in Zechariah 9:9; John 12:15; Mark 15:1 to 32; Luke 23:1 to 3, 37, 38; John 18:33, 37, 39 and 19:3, 12, 14, 15, 19. What was the purpose of mentioning all these verses relating to Jesus as being the “King of the Jews”? That is because he was known by the people around him to be of the ancestral line of kingship (ie. he was descended from King David). Scriptures teach that the chosen One of God (Messiah) would be of the seed of the line of David: *“Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne.”* Acts 2:30. Those who believe that Jesus came into this world through a virgin birth make a liar of God, because God did not say that the kingship line of the Messiah would run through the bloodline of a woman, but through the seed of man, and all these previous verses tell us that the seed would descend through the Davidic line. We must remember that Jewish bloodlines

were traced through fathers so any person seeking the Messiah would be tracing any male candidate's ancestry through his father, not his mother. Though Mary may have been connected with David through his son Nathan, she was not connected through the succession of kings. Mary was a cousin to Elisabeth (Luke 1:36) who was from the lineage of the priesthood, thus making Mary's father or mother a sister or brother to one of Elisabeth's parents. Now return to Luke 3:23 which reads *"...Joseph, which was the son of Heli."* Joseph cannot be the son of both Jacob (see Matthew 1:16) and Heli so which man was Joseph the son of? We will see that Luke's genealogy is not a continuous line of the kingship bloodline, and thus, we will show Joseph is the son-in-law of Heli. Read Luke 2:4: *"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David)..."* Joseph was not only of the house of David, but he was also of the direct lineage of Davidic royalty, therefore Jesus, through Joseph was a direct descendant of David and heir to the throne. However, Jesus' ancestry through his mother in Luke's genealogy did not fulfill Messianic prophecy, because after David, Luke's version of the lineage detours from the kingly succession with David's son, Nathan. Mary was blessed among women since she had the privilege of being the wife of a man who carried the biological seed from David and would bear the Promised One of God. Joseph was the son of Jacob and only son-in-law to Heli. Mary was related to a priestly family through her family's kinship with Elisabeth's family.

Now read Matthew 1:16 again: *"And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ."* Where Luke's genealogy says of Joseph being "the son of Heli", Matthew uses a more stronger quote stating "Jacob begat Joseph" thus we know that Joseph was born of the seed of Jacob. Matthew lays out in his genealogy showing who Joseph was and shows how he was descended from the kingship line.

Turn to Luke 2:33: *"And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him,"* Due to the phrasing of this verse, those who subscribe to the virgin birth belief may say the verse does not say 'Joseph, his father'. It may be true in this instance, but there are plenty of other verses stating Joseph was Jesus' father. Jesus is mentioned as being Joseph's son in Luke 4:22: *"And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?"* When Jesus came to his home city of Nazareth, he went into the synagogue read to the congregation from scripture Isaiah 61:1 and commented that *"This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears"*. Jesus had told the people that he was the Messiah, but they found it hard to believe. Did they not know Jesus? Was he not the son of a 'common' man named Joseph? There was no question among those who knew him in childhood that he was the son of Joseph. So why did the people find Jesus' words hard to believe? It was because of his knowledge that they wondered at his words since he was only the son of a common man. Matthew 13:54 to 56 states: *"And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?"* Again, because of Joseph's humble background, that is, of being a mere carpenter, and not a priest or a scribe, the people wondered where Jesus would gain all the wisdom that proceeded out of his mouth. It appears these Jews did not remember their scriptures very well. It was stated of old times that the Spirit of the LORD would have to be upon one to speak as he did. The scriptures had said that the Chosen One would not only be humble and meek, but he would come from a common home environment amongst the people of Israel. Joseph was a commoner, but was blessed as was his wife, Mary, for they had a large family of five sons as well as daughters. His neighbours in Nazareth had no doubt as to who Jesus' legitimate father was, which led to the people wondering how Jesus

attained the knowledge that he had. *"And they said Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?"* John 6:42. The Jews did not understand what Jesus was saying, but they did know where he physically came from. They knew his father was Joseph the carpenter and that Mary was his mother. In the last verse quoted from John, the Jews were saying they knew Jesus' biological father and mother.

In John 1:45, Philip states that Jesus was Joseph's biological son: *"Philip findeth Nathanael, and said: unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."* When Philip said "we have found him", he spoke of the promised Messiah, King and Prophet of God, who was prophesied to come from the city of Nazareth. Jesus was of the seed of David through Joseph. From the book of Moses, in Deuteronomy 18:18, 19, we read: *"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."*

Another verse to consider with respect to Joseph's legitimacy as being Jesus' father is from Matthew 1:20: *"But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife..."* Notice how even the angel of God addressed Joseph in the dream as the son of David. Joseph was confirmed as being the son of David thus making his son, Jesus, the son of David.

The last script to consider is from Luke 2:4: *"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David)"* Joseph was a Bethlehemite from the house of David, and we are told he went to Bethlehem specifically to be taxed for the reason that he was of David's lineage.

We have presented verses in this writing that recognizes Joseph as the legitimate father of Jesus, despite the verse from Luke 3:23 stating Joseph was the "son of Heli." We have demonstrated that 'son' of Heli is better translated as 'son-in-law' by using today's modern verbiage. It was Joseph who fulfilled the promise made by God to David, for he was by blood the son of David, his lineage being of the royal line. The blood lineage of Mary, though she was blessed among women, did not fulfill the prophecies of Jesus coming from the Davidic royal line as her father, Heli, did not come from the royal line.