

ROOTS

The focus of this booklet is on the subject of Jesus being the Root and Branch of David. Contrary to what most Christians may assume or believe, there are no verses in the Holy Scriptures that says God formed or (re)created a seed by the Holy Spirit and placed it within Mary's womb. There is overwhelming evidence in the Bible showing where Jesus came from in both the Old and New Testaments but the existence of this evidence seems to be overlooked by many people.

The Bible says that by man, sin came into the world, and by man, will we be reconciled to God from sin (Romans 5:19; I Corinthians 15:22). God's promise to mankind was that a seed would come from the root of David and that he would be the Righteous One (or Messiah), and he shall sit upon the throne of David. Read Psalm 89:3, 4: ***"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant. Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations."***; Psalm 89:34 to 37: ***"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once I have sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established forever, as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven."***; Psalm 132:11: ***"The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne."***

Given the forementioned verses, God is quite clear on where the seed of the Anointed One would come from. Contrary to what many mainstream churches claim, God said nothing about Him (re)creating a special seed, then impregnating a woman, and then also have the infant come forth by a virgin birth (or in other words, the orifice of Mary's womb having never parted for the delivery of the infant Jesus). It is important to understand that in order for Jesus to be the Messiah, his entry into the world would need to come about according to Old Testament prophecies since that is the only way that the people of Israel (ie. God's chosen) could recognize who the Messiah would be.

Let us analyse the previous verses which discusses the seed of David. We are told the promised seed would come through the lineage of a man, and that man would be of David's royal bloodline. Extracted from the verses mentioned earlier: ***"I will not lie unto David"***; ***"...I will not break nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."***; ***"Once I have sworn by my holiness..."***; ***"The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David"***; ***"I have sworn unto David my servant."*** Such statements emphasize just how important it was to God that He keep His promise to David that through his progeny, the Messiah would come forth.

Following are extractions of statements from the same verses where God promised to David that the ever-lasting kingship to come would be of his seed (ie. through his descendants): ***"Thy seed will I establish for ever."***; ***"His seed shall endure for ever."***; ***"Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne."*** God does not say something and not keep His word. He made an ever-lasting agreement with David: ***"I have made a covenant"***; ***"My covenant will I not break."*** David was chosen by God such that one of his descendants would sit upon an ever-lasting throne and that promised seed was Jesus.

As we continue with our study, we will show Jesus' roots and how he fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. We read in Isaiah 11:10: ***"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."*** Important parts of this verse that should be noted are ***"in that day"*** and the other is ***"his rest shall"***. Jesse was the father of David, and we know the promise that God made was to David that from David's seed would come the everlasting kingdom, and with it, rest. Now there are those who deny and say that this verse is not in reference to Jesus. But if this verse was in reference to David, who were the Gentile nations that found rest in him? The Gentiles did not seek after David, but certainly did seek after Jesus ***"in that day"*** which suggests a time in the future. Other proof we have of the verse's meaning is in the writings of Paul, specifically Romans

15:12, where he speaks of this verse from Isaiah as relating to Jesus: ***"And again, Esaias saith, there shall be a root [sprout] of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust"*** [hope]. Two key phrases here are ***"he that shall rise to reign"*** and ***"in him shall the Gentiles trust."*** Paul spoke of these verses as referencing our Lord, Jesus, in the context as from where he should come forth to reign.

Staying with Isaiah, we read in chapter eleven, verses one and two: ***"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots...And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD."*** What do we learn from these verses? It is that even though Jesus is the Son of God by the endowing of the Holy Spirit and by the resurrection through God, these verses show that Jesus was also the son of man, from the seed of man as God had promised both David and the world from the beginning (Genesis 3:15). The myth of the virgin birth is a doctrine that has been in the religious beliefs of just about every Gentile (pagan) nation. Nearly all these nations had similar miraculous births by their pagan gods, usually with their god's impregnating a human virgin woman.

The book of Revelation has two references mentioning the root of David; the first is in Revelation 5:5: ***"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."*** This verse does not mention Jesus by name, but who else would have that authority and righteousness to open the book? We know of none other but the Anointed One of God, Jesus. And as for it referring to David because of the quote, the *"Lion of the tribe of Judah"* which was a title of David, it is not feasible in this verse to apply to David because of the further elaboration *"the Root of David"*. Also, in verses 8, 12, and 13 of the same chapter, the wording speaks of "the Lamb" which is a well-known reference to Jesus – see John 1:29, 36. Furthermore, speaking about David, why we know that it is not in reference to him is that David has not yet entered into God's presence: ***"...let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried and his sepulchre is with us unto this day."*** and ***"For David is not ascended into the heavens."*** Acts 2:29b, 34a. To cement the correctness that Jesus is that root and offspring of David, or in other words, the fulfillment of the promise that God made to David regarding the fruit of his body becoming the everlasting kingship, this next excerpt from the book of Revelations should leave no doubt: ***"I Jesus have sent mine angels to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."*** Revelations 22:16. Notice the words *"to testify unto you these things in the churches."* What was being testified to the churches and by whom? Jesus sent his angels to testify to the churches. But to what churches? There are many folds on earth, but only one that is truly Christ's. The angel was sent to the churches of God (the called out ones) to testify unto them *"these things"*. One of those things the angel spoke concerning Jesus was that he was *"the root and the offspring of David"*. There is no doubt that Jesus is the offspring of David: ***"And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus."*** Acts 13:22,23; ***"And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever."*** II Samuel 7:12,13.

Let us backtrack for a moment to look into the word translated into English as "root". The Hebrew word translated as 'root' in all the Old Testament excerpts in this article is "sheresh" from Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, #8327 'sherash': "to root; i.e. strike into the soil." The Greek word used in the Greek excerpts (ie. New Testament verses) is 'rhizo' - "a prime word, a 'root (lit. or fig.); root:" Following is the definition of the word from *Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary* (Canadian edition) 1976: "Root: 4. That from which anything derives; origin; growth or life; vigor." The definition of the word "root", whether from the Hebrew "sheresh" or the Greek "rhiza", both refer to the origin or a point of origination.

With reference to the two preceding texts in Acts 13, we have God saying His Will shall be fulfilled through David's seed by the coming of a Savior, and the writer said that seed was Jesus. God said in II Samuel 7 that David's seed would be set up after he had passed away. The important point here is that the seed shall be set up through David's body (bowels), and that means it had to be a physical seed of man, and this seed from man shall be set up forever by God. Read now the following two excerpts: ***"Philip findeth Nathanael and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*** John 1:45; ***"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, unto Judaea, unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David)"*** Luke 2:4. Note that Joseph was Jesus' biological father and as established in the genealogy of Matthew 1, he was of the Davidic kingship bloodline.

We have read about Jesus being referred to as 'the Branch', and we will be reading more about the Branch shortly. But let us first look at the meaning of the Hebrew words "tsemach" and "netser" from Strong's Concordance which are used in the excerpts of this writing for the word 'branch'. First is the Hebrew word 'netser', which is used in Isaiah 11:1: ***"#5342, from 5341 (natsar) in a of greenness as a striking color; a shoot, fig. a descendant: a branch"***. The second Hebrew word is "tsemach" and is used in Zechariah 6:12, Jeremiah 23:5 and 33:15: ***"6780 tsemach- from tsamach - a sprout, branch, bud, that which (where) grew (upon), spring"***. The word tsemach is from tsamach - ***"a prime root; to sprout, bear, bring forth (cause to, make to) bud (forth) (cause to, make to) grow, (again, up) (cause to) spring (forth, up),"*** Jesus was the Branch coming out of David, coming forth from his father's seed, that is, through Joseph who was of the seed, root and branch of David. It cannot be written any clearer than Luke 2:4. Joseph through his ancestry filled every aspect of God's promises from the Old Testament; Mary's ancestry alone did not fulfill all of God's will or promise. Read John 1:45, and Luke 2:4 again, with an impartial, open mind. Philip had no doubt that Jesus was the son of Joseph and neither should we with the overwhelming biblical evidence.

Some may point out that Mary was descended from David through his son Nathan, and that is factually correct. However, the Messiah was prophesied to come out of the Davidic kingship line. But David's son, Nathan, went into the priesthood (according to some traditions) and was not of David's kingship lineage. Solomon became king of Israel after his father David died and God renewed his promise of a Messiah with him. See I Kings 1:29, 30, 35; and 9:2 to 5. The promise from God was that the Messianic kingship would be of the seed from the body of David (ie. a descendant of David): ***"The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit [or seed] of thy body will I set upon thy throne."*** Psalm 132:11. From biology, we know a woman produces the ovum (an egg) which is dormant and does not produce a human life until cell division occurs and this does not happen until the egg has been fertilized by seed (sperm) which comes out of the body of man. God always keeps His promise to His people and the promise made to David, Solomon and David's other descendants is very specific about a man being involved in the creation of the Messiah. Mary was not descended from Solomon, therefore, the only way for God's promise to be fulfilled was through a man, namely Joseph, whose lineage the Gospel of Matthew traced back to David through Solomon (Matthew 1:6 to 16).

We have already shown by scripture the root that Jesus descended from, and that is, King David. We have read how Jesus himself has said he is the offspring that grew out of the root of David – read Revelation 22:16. Also read Isaiah 11:1 again: ***"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots."*** Let us go to the book of Jeremiah 23:5,6: ***"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."*** From Zechariah: ***"And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD."*** Zechariah 6:12. The man who shall come from the root of

Jesse and David, who will be called 'the Branch' and 'the Lord our righteousness', he shall build the temple of the LORD. Jesus is the Root and the Branch, in other words, the offspring of David. From Jeremiah 33:15 to 17: ***“In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness, to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, the LORD our righteousness. For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want [ie. lack] a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel.”***

To those who try to fit Mary into the lineage of the kingship, read again what was said in Jeremiah 33:17: ***“...David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel.”*** And what did Jesus say in Revelations 22:16: ***“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches, I am the root and the offspring of David.”***

If we want the truth, we must not listen to those of the clergy who preach errors found in man's assumptions, and be willing to part ways with traditions of men. Joseph, the father of Jesus, was a man from the seed of David, from the country of Judah, and from the root of David. Through Joseph, not Mary, did Jesus become the fulfillment of the prophecy relating to the Messiah being the root of David.