

V.1. Lambs to Rams: The Seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

Deu 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee (*Moses*), and will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him. 19 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.

Usually one's life is chronicled after they are dead since their life has been recorded almost as it happened or shortly thereafter. But how do we account for the fact that Jesus' life was foretold long before He came in the form of a babe in a manger (*Mic 5:2*)? How do we account for the specifics of His life such as being born of a virgin (*Isa 7:14*), later riding on a donkey's colt (*which shows His ability to control even an animal that wasn't broken in*) while entering Jerusalem (*Zech 9:9*), having His garments parted while He looked on from the cross (*Ps 22:18*) and most importantly, His resurrection (*Ps 2:7*)? Were it not for God's omniscience and providence being relayed via inspiration such things would not be possible and no other person in history could have fulfilled every one of them.

The very first prophecy concerning the coming of Christ in physical form (*Gal 4:4*) happened almost from the beginning of man's existence on earth. God knew in eternity that giving man free agency, out of His love for His creation, would create within man the choice between a divine and a carnal nature, both of which man was imbued with from his creation (*Gen 2:7*), and from which man would either prosper or fall. Adam chose to disobey God and thus introduced sin into the world (*Rom 5:12*), and "sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (*Jas 1:15*).

Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will

put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed (*Jn 8:44*) and her Seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.

Before Christ, as of the Godhead and Who is spirit (*Jn 4:24*), could come to earth in human form “in the fullness of time” (*Gal 4:4*) as the final sacrifice for sin (*Heb 2:17*), “a body” had to be “prepared” for Him (*Heb 10:5*). That body came through the lineage set forth from the beginning from Adam all the way down through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, through David and finally through Mary, being born in natural form in order to fulfill God’s promise “to take away sins; [because] in Him [there] is no sin” (*1 Jn 3:5*).

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

The promise was indeed at first general, and the term used was of the most general nature; but it was shown from time to time that God intended that it should be applied only to one branch or portion of the family of Abraham; and that limitation was finally so made as to terminate in the Messiah. -Albert Barnes

Mat 1:2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

Mat 1:16 And Jacob (*another Jacob- “that his name be not put out of Israel”- Deu 25:5-6*) begat Joseph the husband of **Mary, of whom was born** Jesus, Who is called Christ. (*Emp. added*)

Joseph was legally Jesus’ paternal parent according to the lineage of the kings that traced His roots to David and thus the right to David’s throne (*Mat 1:20; 9:27*). Luke’s account of Jesus’ genealogy uses the phrase “as was supposed” (*Gk.3543-to do by law*) but continues His record of ancestry from His maternal parent Mary, to King David (*v. 31*) and then all the way back to Adam (*v. 38*).

Luk 3:23 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*, (*Emp. added*)

But according to His genealogy found in Matthew's account (1:6), He was Mary's (*"of whom was born Jesus"*) biological child conceived by Holy Spirit (*Mat 1:20*). Luke 3:23 could be better read, if such were the case with genealogies of the time, "And Jesus Himself began to be about thirty years of age, the son of Mary, which was of Heli..." Notice in the KJV that "*son of*" is in italics since that phrase is not found in the original manuscripts. And even if it weren't in italics, the word for son could also be the same word for "son in law" (*1 Sam 24:16; 16:17*). Matthew's account begins with Abraham forward whereas as Luke's account goes back from Jesus to Adam. Matthew traces Jesus paternal lineage because of the legal requirement to reign on David's throne whereas Luke traces His maternal lineage because of the blood/physical promise in that lineage. Both genealogies can be traced to David thus fulfilling God's promise to David that the Messiah would come through his progeny (*Act 2:30*).

V.1. Questions

1. Why are prophecies of Jesus' coming in the Old Testament so important? a) no one else in history could have fulfilled them; b) they told of His coming in detail; c) both a and b.

2. Why is it so important to note that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey? a) it showed Jesus' control over an unbroken donkey; b) usually the victors rode on donkeys; c) it proved that horses were only ridden by the military.
3. What is the most important prophecy concerning Jesus' coming? a) being born in a manger; b) His death; c) His resurrection.
4. Name the passage that gives the first prophecy of the coming of Christ in the Bible. a) John 3:16; b) Micah 5:2; c) Genesis 3:15.
5. What had to be prepared for Jesus to come? a) a manger; b) a place to stay; c) a body.
6. What qualified Jesus as being the prophesied Messiah? a) He is the Son of God; b) His legal and blood lineage was traced back to David; c) He was born of a woman.
7. Other than used in the sense of offspring, what else can the word for "son" be used? a) lineage; b) son-in-law; c) grandchildren.
8. What are the two different phrases used in both records of Jesus' genealogy that can be difficult to interpret? a) "of Mary, of whom was born Jesus" and "as was supposed the Son of Joseph"; b) of Joseph, who was born Jesus" and "as was supposed the Son of Mary; c) neither a or b.