

## **The Importance of the Jesus' Genealogies**

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The genealogies of Jesus are important for understanding his fulfillment of the Old Testament. We find only two genealogies in the New Testament, Matthew and Luke (Matt 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38). Like the Old Testament, these genealogies are significant for validating Jesus as the offspring of David. Matthew's genealogy states from the very beginning that Jesus is the son of David and the son of Abraham. For Matthew, Jesus is not only the son of David and Abraham, but the fulfillment of the promise given to them (cf., Acts 3:29-36; Gal 3:16). Luke traces Jesus' genealogy back to Adam, demonstrating Jesus' identification with humanity as the final Adam (cf., Rom 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45).

Part of the requirement for the Davidic promises to be fulfilled was that David's offspring would physically come from his loins (2 Sam 7:12). However, there is a problem if we take Jeremiah 22:24-30 seriously. In Jeremiah 22:24-30 God declares that none of the offspring of Jeconiah will sit on his throne. The problem is that Jesus' genealogy in Matthew records that he is from that line. So, it appears that makes Jesus an invalid king. The problem is resolved by understanding that Matthew's genealogy records Jesus as the king of the Davidic throne; whereas Luke's genealogy records Jesus as a physical offspring of David. Matthew genealogy does record the kingly line of Jesus; however, it is from Joseph's side of the family (Matt 1:20). The kingly line continued through Solomon of whom Joseph is an offspring, but so is Jeconiah. By way of adoption Jesus is the offspring of Joseph and; thus, part of the kingly line and a rightful inheritor to Joseph's family lineage. However, Jesus is exempt from the curse of Jeconiah, because he is not a physical offspring of Joseph. Jesus also needs to be a physical offspring of David and not just a kingly offspring in order to qualify and fulfill the promise given to David. This is where Luke's genealogy becomes important. Jesus, as the physical offspring of Mary, qualifies as the physical descendant of David. Mary, like Joseph is from the family of David, but she is not from the Solomonian or royal line, but from Nathan, another son of David (2 Sam 5:14). Jesus as the supposed son of Joseph (by adoption) was the son of Eli the father of Mary of which Jesus was a physical offspring. Jesus is presented as the offspring and son of David (Luke's genealogy) and the rightful heir to David's throne (Matthew's genealogy).

God in his infinite wisdom knew all these things and; thus, revealed in due time the miracle of the incarnation. The incarnation is not only a great mystery in which God would identify with his people to redeem them, but is also the marvelous way in which he would fulfill the promises given to David, by maintaining both the royal and physical requirements for the promised Messiah, and still be consistent with what he had pronounced in the past against Jeconiah.