

For unto us a child is Born

- “Long lay the world in sin and error pining,(suffering) till He appeared and the soul felt its worth,”

#### Matthew 1:18:

**18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

**19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

**20** But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

**21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

**22** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

**23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

**24** Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

**25** and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

#### GALATIANS 4:4–5:

But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

#### “THE FULLNESS OF TIME”

We know Christ was born at the time when the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple was still standing because of **Luke 2:27** when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to have Simeon carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

We also know the day Jesus was to enter Jerusalem on a donkey because of **Daniels** prophecy in **9:25-26** which starts with “So you are to know and discern” *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing...

The decree went out 4 times to rebuild Jerusalem, but only the **Second Decree of Artaxerxes (445 BC)**: recorded in **(Nehemiah 2:1-8)** was explicit authorization given “to restore and rebuild Jerusalem,” precisely matching the prophecy’s focus on the city rather than just the Temple.

**Galatians 3:19 Asks:** What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till **the Seed** should come to **whom** the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

The Law was also “put in charge” to lead people to Jesus as the Messiah.

**Galatians 3:24** Therefore the law was our tutor to *bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

We are told in **John 10:10** Jesus came that we may **have life** and may **have it abundantly**.

We know if we choose to follow Jesus, we must be prepared to deny ourselves and take up our cross daily, **Matthew 16:24**. This leads us to consider the meaning of “**to have it abundantly**.” What is really being said is Jesus offers more than any of us has yet received.

**Genesis 3:15** the first mention in the bible of the Christmas promise.

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity (**hatred, animosity, hostility**) Between you and the woman, And between your seed and **her Seed**; He shall crush your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

In **John 8:58** Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I tell you...before Abraham was born, I am!” This statement directly ties Jesus to the divine name of God revealed in the Old Testament... the I AM. But just as important it ties Jesus to the **Abrahamic promise** found in:

**Gen 22:18** When God told Abraham In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Genesis 22 foreshadows Christ's sacrifice:

- Abraham is about to offer his "only son" (v. 2, 12), whom he loves, as a burnt offering.
- God provides a substitute ram (v. 13), and Abraham names the place "The Lord will provide" (v. 14).
- This typology points to God providing His only Son (**John 3:16**) as the ultimate substitute sacrifice (the Lamb of God, **John 1:29**), whose death brings the promised blessing.

This promise made to Abraham is explained by Paul in:

**Galatians 3:16** Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "*And to your Seed*," who is Christ.

Additionally, **Galatians 3:29** says this promise directly applies to us,

**Galatians 3:29:** "And if you are of Christ, then you are a seed of Abraham and heirs according to promise."

since 2018, there have been **660** elections federal, state, county, and at the city levels in the U.S. that have been decided by **10 votes or fewer**. Among those, **394 were decided by fewer than five votes**, and a staggering **94 elections** were determined by just **one vote**.

**Galatians 3:29** reminds us that as Christians, we are deeply connected to God's promises. But it's our obedience that sparks real transformation.

Since we as Christians are of the seed of Abraham and heirs of the promise, it's kind of neat to be able to peer into the future and see what this looks like when fulfilled. John shows us in:

**Revelation 7:9** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from **every nation**, from **all tribes and peoples and languages**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with **palm branches in their hands**,

God reaffirms and narrows the covenant He made to Abraham specifically to Abraham's son Isaac, in

**Genesis 21:12:** "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called."

This excludes Ishmael and establishes Isaac as the child of promise through whom the covenant line continues.

The covenant is then passed to Isaac's son Jacob (later renamed Israel), in **Genesis 28:13–15**, where God appears to Jacob in a dream and declares:

**Genesis 28:13–15** "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac... In you and in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

This echoes the Abrahamic promise, confirming Jacob as the next heir in the lineage.

The promise is passed from Jacob and is narrowed even further through Jacob's prophetic blessing on his 4<sup>th</sup> oldest son Judah in:

**Genesis 49:9–10:** "Judah is a lion's cub... The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples".

The word *Shiloh* appears 33 times in the Old Testament, and in 32 of those instances it refers to a city in Ephraim, about 24 miles North of Jerusalem.

But here in **Genesis 49** "Shiloh" is interpreted as a title for the future ruler from the lineage of Judah, a prophecy about the coming of Jesus Christ.

- Prior to Shiloh's coming, the tribe of Judah maintained power and strength, signified by the scepter—the symbol of authority and rule of law. **This began in David, who was of the tribe of Judah**, not king Saul, he was from the tribe of Benjamin, David's descendants ruled until the Babylonian captivity ended the Davidic monarchy—around **586 BC**.

Jesus reaffirms the fulfillment of this ancient prophecy in **Revelation 22:16**, where He declares: "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, **the bright Morning Star.**"

The title "**bright Morning Star**" is a prophecy found in **Numbers 24:17** I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; **A Star shall come out of Jacob**; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult, (Turmoil, mayhem)

**Isaiah 60:3** adds to the prophecy and gives us some important details: The **Gentiles** shall come to your light, And **kings** to the **brightness of your rising**.

To get a clear explanation we go to

**Matthew 2:1-2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men** from the East (**gentiles**) came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen **His star in the East** and have come to worship Him.

**Matthew 2:5** So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: (**Micah 5:2**) 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'

**Revelation 22:16**, when Jesus calls Himself both the **Root** and the **Offspring** of David, Jesus reveals His eternal divine nature and His human lineage as a descendant of David's through the tribe of Judah. This indorses the promise in **Genesis 49:10**, where the scepter of authority would remain with Judah "until Shiloh comes"— the Messiah to whom the peoples would gather.

**2 Samuel 7:12-13** When God is making His covenant with David and tells him: When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He shall build a house for my name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.**

**Luke 1:32-33** the Angel Gabriel confirming "the Lord God will give him the **throne of his father David**... of his kingdom **there will be no end**" which is linked to the prophecy in:

**1Ch 17:11** When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. **1** He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. **13** I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, **14** but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom **forever**, and his throne shall be established **forever**."

**Jeremiah 22:24** As I live," says the LORD, "though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off **30** Thus says the Lord: 'Write this man down as childless, A man *who* shall not prosper in his days; For **none** of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling **anymore** in Judah.'"

This is a blood curse on the lineage of David's last reigning son Jehoiachin (**Jehoyakin**) (**the 15<sup>th</sup> descendant of David to inherit the throne**)

**Matthew's Genealogy chapter 1:**

- traces Jesus' legal lineage through Joseph emphasizing His royal lineage through David and Judah back to Abraham, demonstrating how the ruler's authority culminates in this promised descendant—**Shiloh**, the Messiah.
- It presents Joseph's family tree, noting that he is Jesus' **legal** father but not His biological one. Confirming Jesus is the rightful heir to the throne of David, fulfilling Jacob's words.
- (**verse 16**) Matthew doesn't call Joseph the father of Jesus; rather, he speaks of “Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called Christ”.

### Luke's Genealogy chapter 3:

- Traces Jesus' lineage back to Adam, connecting Him to David through Nathan, another son of David.
- The phrase in verse 3 “being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph” highlights Jesus' biological connection through Mary's family. Remember Jesus only had one biological parent.
- While Jesus was legally Joseph's son, He was not biologically descended from Joseph. Jesus was not from the lineage of Jehoiachin (**Jehoyakin**) so the **blood curse was not passed on to Him** and He could fulfill the Messianic prophecies without God breaking His word.
- Mary's lineage shows she was a descendant of **Abraham**, **Isaac**, and **Jacob** (v 34); she was specifically of the tribe of **Judah** (33). She was also a descendant of **Boaz** (v 32) and **David** (v 31). Jesus as a descendant of **David** through **Mary** was of royal blood, confirming His eligibility to inherit the Throne of David, but not inheriting Adam's sin.
- Jesus is the image of the invisible God (**Colossians 1:15**). All other men bore Adam's image, stained with sin, but Jesus—by virtue of the conception by the Holy Spirit—did not. In fact, Paul contrasts Jesus with Adam in **Romans 5**, explaining that Adam brought sin and death into the world, but Jesus brought life (**Romans 5:15–19**).

Which is why the miraculous virgin birth first prophesied in **Isaiah 7:14** is so important: it is reiterated in **Matthew 1:23** “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel” (meaning God with us). It is here that explains how the eternal King from Judah enters history not through ordinary means, but as the divine Son of God and explaining the ancient blessing on Judah being fulfilled in Jesus, the rightful heir to the throne.

Here, we can finally grasp the unusual nature and significance of tracing lineage through a mother, linking back to **Genesis 3:15** and the promise of the Seed of the woman. This lineage leads us to Jesus, who is connected to Eve through His mother, Mary.