

"The Greeting"

Part 5

Romans 1:1-7

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we looked at two verses and they were Romans 1:3-4. It is in these two verses that we find two very important doctrines pertaining to our Lord Jesus Christ. Let me walk you through a quick review of what we have been looking at.

I. The Gospel of God

1. It is God's Gospel.

Notice Romans 1:1

2. The Gospel was promised by the prophets.

Notice Romans 1:2

3. The Gospel concerns Jesus Christ.

This is what we looked at last week and we looked at how the Gospel concerned Jesus in two ways:

a. The Gospel Concerns the Humanity of Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 1:3

b. The Gospel Concerns the Deity of Jesus Christ.

Notice Romans 1:4

Last week we looked at the importance of these two doctrines and how they CANNOT be separated. Jesus had to be fully human and He had to be fully God to be the Savior of the world. If He was not human and if He was not God then we have absolutely no hope and we are wasting our time by being here tonight.

Now these two doctrines are a defense against the attacks on the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus was fully human but He did not have a human father. He is the Son of God not the son of Joseph. Mary was His mother and she conceived by the Holy Spirit. Let us notice the words of Gabriel to Mary.

Luke 1:31-35

³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

³⁴ Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Both Matthew and Luke come to the defense of the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. We also see the Virgin Birth in Galatians.

Galatians 4:4

⁴ But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Not only is the virgin birth defended in the New Testament but we also find it defended in the Old Testament.

Genesis 3:14-15

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 and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Jesus would be the SEED of the woman but not the SEED of a man.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Before we leave this thought, there is something which we need to look at and it is the greatest evidence of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. I want to take the time to look at this evidence for two reasons. The first reason is because the Virgin Birth is so vitally important and the second reason is because it will illuminate Romans 1:3.

Notice Romans 1:3 again.

Here in this verse we are told that Jesus was made of the seed of David after the flesh. This means that Jesus' genealogy can be traced back to David. In Matthew and in Luke we can find two genealogies of Jesus Christ. The critics often point to these genealogies and their differences and attempt to use them as a way to prove the Bible wrong. But what they do not understand is when they pick up these two genealogies they are holding the greatest evidence of the virgin birth listed in the Bible. We are not going to read over both genealogies but we are going to look at a few "high" points listed within.

The genealogy listed in Luke is in Luke 3:23-38 and the genealogy listed in Matthew is in Matthew 1:1-16. Both run parallel until they reach David then they divide.

Matthew 1:6-7

⁶ *And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;*

⁷ *And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;*

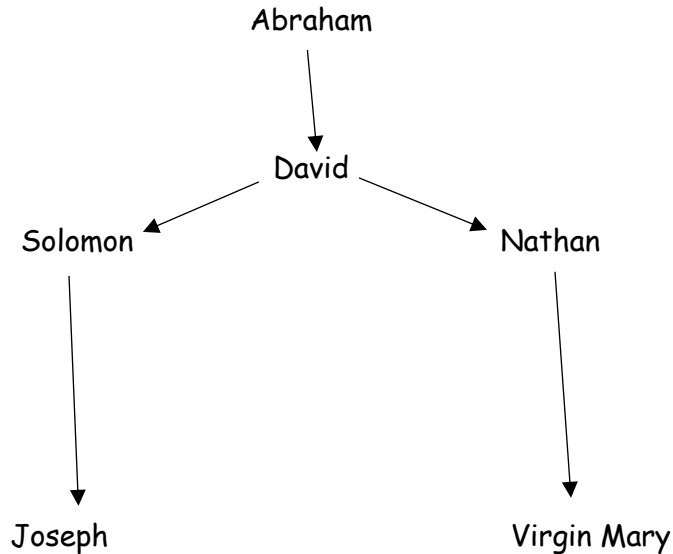
Matthew takes us through David to his son Solomon and he then traces the line through Solomon down to Joseph.

Luke 3:31-32

³¹ *Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan, which was the son of Mattatha, which was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David.*

³² *Which was the son of Jesse, which was the son of Obed, which was the son of Booz, which was the son of Salmon, which was the son of Naasson,*

Luke takes us through David to his son Nathan and he traces the line through Nathan down to The Virgin Mary.



Now let me show you something from each of the genealogies.

Matthew 1:16

¹⁶ And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Matthew traces the line down to Joseph. It looks like Luke does the very same thing also but that is not the case.

Luke 3:23

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,

Here we see that Luke tells us that Joseph was the son of Heli. It is believed that Heli was the father of The Virgin Mary. Joseph became the son of Heli through marriage. Luke is giving us the geology of Jesus through Mary and Matthew does the same through Joseph. Now the critics often point to Matthew's listing to discredit the teaching of the Virgin Birth.

Matthew 1:16

¹⁶ And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Many say this verse proves that Jesus was the son of Joseph. But that is IMPOSSIBLE if Jesus is the Messiah because of one man listed in Matthew's listing.

Matthew 1:11-12

¹¹ And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

¹² And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;

Jechonias is the New Testament form of Jeconiah who was the king of Judah taken into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar in 597 B.C.

Jeremiah 27:20

²⁰ Which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took not, when he carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem;

In Jeremiah 22, he is called "Coniah". Let us notice what God says concerning Jeconiah/Coniah.

Jeremiah 22:24-30

²⁴ As I live, saith the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence;

²⁵ And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans.

²⁶ And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die.

²⁷ But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return.

²⁸ Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?

²⁹ O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD.

³⁰ Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

Here we see that NO MAN OF JECHONIAS' SEED SHALL SIT UPON THE THRONE OF DAVID.

This means that NO descendant of Jechonias, none of his children or his children's children could ever sit upon the throne of David. Jechonias and his seed were cursed by God.

Let us remember that he is in the genealogy of Jesus Christ and Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary has descended from him. So, if Joseph would have been the father of Jesus then Jesus would have been automatically disqualified from sitting upon the throne of David because of the curse pronounced upon Jechonias and his seed!

But now we have another problem which the critics would point to and that is since Jesus is not a NATURAL Son of Joseph how can he be King? The ROYAL line came down through Solomon to Joseph but Jesus is not the Son of Joseph and if He was the Son of Joseph He would be disqualified because of the curse on the seed of Jechonias. This is answered in a way that gives ALL the glory to God.

Jesus was born of Mary who was also a descendant of David through the line of Nathan so Jesus IS THE SEED OF DAVID according to the flesh. But the line of Mary comes through Nathan and that is not the ROYAL line. The line of Nathan would be the Legal line but not the Royal line. So how does Jesus qualify to be the King since He is not of the line of Solomon?

The Holy Spirit conceived the Lord Jesus in the womb of Mary and because Mary is a descendant of David Jesus is the SEED of DAVID according to the flesh. When Joseph married Mary, he took the UNBORN child under his care and Jesus was then brought into the Royal line through "adoption" and when Joseph became the husband of Mary Jesus became the LEGAL Messiah, the ROYAL Messiah, and the UNCURSED Messiah and He qualified to be the King that would sit upon the Throne of David.

Someone might ask, "What about the brothers of Jesus? Wouldn't they also qualify to stand in the Royal and the Legal line". The answer is, "NO!" Joseph was their natural father and therefore they would have been under the curse and were disqualified from

sitting upon the Throne of David. There is ABSOLUTELY no other man who could meet the qualifications. Jesus exhausted both the Legal and the Royal lines from David therefore He is The Messiah made of the seed of David according to the flesh.

Conclusion:

The genealogies place an exclamation mark upon the Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and God did not stop there.

Notice Romans 1:4

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is proof that He is the Son of God. The resurrection carries a message to all people today.

1. **Believers** - The resurrection means that we have a Living Hope.
2. **Unbelievers** - The resurrection means they will one-day face Jesus Christ in all His glory and power. To we who know Him He is our Savior but to the unbeliever He will be the JUDGE.