

Why Do the Gospels of Matthew and Luke Present Two Different Genealogies for the Messiah/Christ?

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Are you aware of the name variances between the genealogies given by Matthew (Matthew 1:1-17) and Luke (Luke 3:21-38) for our Master and Savior? Because of some name variances, many non-Christians who are opposed to the authenticity of the NT, use these name variances as one out of many justifications to discredit the NT.

There are a few surmised explanations for the name variations that have been proposed over the many years; although, this author is convinced there is only one explanation that resolves all seemingly problematical differences.

THE GENEALOGY WITHIN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Firstly, I believe most people agree that the genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew is the genealogy of Joseph, the husband of Mary. The reason for this belief is because Matthew 1:16 expressly reads, "And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ." However; within this said genealogy given by the Gospel of Matthew, there is one serious problem that is outside of mere name variations when juxtaposed with the Gospel of Luke's genealogy.

There is one serious problem found within the genealogy provided to us in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew 1:11 reads, "And Josias begat **Jechonias** and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon..." (Please know: the name Jechonias, translated from the Greek text, has variant spellings such as "Coniah" translated from the Hebrew text.) We're told through the prophet Jeremiah, in Jeremiah 22:24-30, that Jechonias, being one of the Davidic Kings of Judah, was cursed. YHWH pronounce judgement on him for his evil deeds. Jechonias would be considered childless, and he would never have an heir sit on the Davidic throne - ever. Given this said curse from YHWH upon Jechonias, the genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew is definitively not Christ/Messiah's *royal or genetic* genealogy. Given the explicit reading of Matthew 1:16, coupled with the accursed fact of Jechonias, the genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew is a legal patriarchal genealogy. Joseph (the husband of Mary) was the step-father of Jesus/Yahushua. Joseph was the man who was married to His mother, Mary,... not God the Father in heaven.

Additionally, the Gospel of Matthew's narrative presents Joseph's story as being the step-parent and the legal husbandman of Mary. The virgin conception narrative is focused mainly on Joseph and from Joseph's perspective.

There is an interesting aspect to the Gospel of Matthew's genealogy that I believe solidifies the belief that this said genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew is a physical patriarchal legal genealogy and not a genetic Davidic Royal genealogy. The genealogy begins with Abraham and progresses forward in time and terminates with Joseph, the husband of Mary. Abraham is at the onset of the genealogy - the high patriarch. The promises were given by YHWH through Abraham. With this last said in mind,... Galatians 3:16 reads, "But the promises were spoken to Abraham, and to his Seed. He does not say, 'And to seeds,' as many, but as one, 'And to your Seed,' who is the Messiah." And, Galatians 3:18 reads, "For if the inheritance is BY LAW*, it is no longer by promise, but Elohim (God) gave it to Abraham through a promise." Wherefore, the genealogy that the Gospel of Matthew presents is a PATRIARCHAL LAWFUL one, and the genealogy of PROMISE.

*The law in reference is general in nature in verse 18 (see verse 10), but narrows to the sacrificial law in verse 17.

THE GENEALOGY WITHIN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

The genealogy of Christ/Messiah located in the Gospel of Luke 3:22-38 has a preamble and it reads, “and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven saying, ‘You are My Son, the Beloved, in You I am well pleased.’” This said statement, a witness statement from heaven itself, informs us who Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah’s Father actually is, not Joseph - the husband of Mary. Christ / Messiah’s Father is the Highest on High in heaven.

It is my belief, the Gospel of Luke’s recorded genealogy is by genetic law, Mary’s genealogy. As like the Gospel of Matthew chronicles the virgin conception from Joseph’s perspective, the Gospel of Luke chronicles the virgin conception from Mary’s perspective. There is one seemingly problem if one believes the genealogy in the Gospel of Luke is Mary’s. Although, in my view, the seemingly problem has a simple explanation. Luke 3:23 reads, “And when Yahushua (Jesus) Himself began, He was about thirty years of age, being reckoned by law, son of Joseph, of Eli...” I don’t believe the man named “Joseph” in verse 23 is Mary’s husband as many suppose. The only scenario that resolves the conflict is if this said Joseph is Mary’s father. In other words, Mary had a father named Joseph, and Mary married a man named Joseph. The two said Joseph’s are two different people. The two separate genealogies support this idea. Luke’s gospel lists Joseph’s father as being a man named “Eli.” Matthew’s gospel lists Joseph’s father as being “Jacob”.

There are some people who believe that “Eli” and “Jacob” were brothers and one died, leaving the other one to raise up seed for the dead brother. If this last said was the case, then a huge problem remains. The genealogy lineage in Matthew (being that of Joseph, the husband of Mary) lists King Solomon and his lineage thereafter through the accursed Jehonias. However, the genealogy listed in the Gospel of Luke names “NATHAN” rather than Solomon. And, it is Nathan’s lineage that is listed, by-passing the accursed Jehonias. Paraphrased, both gospel genealogies are not the same, wherefore both genealogies cannot be attributed to Joseph, the husband of Mary. Again, the only resolve to these seemingly conflicts is if Mary’s father is also named “Joseph.”

WHO IS “NATHAN”?

Nathan was the brother of Solomon, by Bathsheba. 1-Chronicles 5:3 reads, “And these were born to him (David) in Jerusalem, Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bathsheba the daughter of Ammiel.” Solomon fell from grace because he accepted the gods of his numerous wives. Wherefore, Solomon’s brother, Nathan - the one next-in-line according to birth order, was given the Davidic genetic birth-right and this said lineage was bestow upon the virgin Mary recorded in the Gospel of Luke.

There is one other significant difference between the two genealogies. The order of the genealogy in the Gospel of Luke differs from the one located in Matthew’s Gospel. To recapture, the genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew begins with Abraham and ends with Joseph, the husband of Mary. It moves forward in time. However, and in contrast, the genealogy in the Gospel of Luke differs in the directional order. It begins with a preamble proclamation. The Father in Heaven - the Highest El is the Father of Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah. Then following the Divine preamble proclamation, the genealogy continues moving backward in-time beginning with “Joseph” (presuming the father of Mary). Joseph’s father was Eli and so-forth, chronicling male names from the son to the father all the way back to the first Adam, then the father of Adam was... GOD. Paraphrased; the onset of the genealogy is God, and the ending of the genealogy is God within the Gospel of Luke.

COMPARISON & CONCLUSION

As I previously stated, the virgin conception and birth narrative in the Gospel of Matthew focuses on Joseph, the husband of Mary. And, the lineage listed in Matthew begins with Abraham and moves *forward* in-time and terminates with Joseph - the husband of Mary. The genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew is a physical, legal, patriarchal one. The genealogy is actually Joseph’s, the husband of Mary, and the step-father of Christ.

In contrast, the Gospel of Luke's virgin conception and birth narrative focuses on Mary. Luke's lineage of names and the order thereof also differ from that of Matthew's. Luke's lineage list of names (after the Divine proclamation preamble) begin with Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah and the names are listed moving *backward* in-time, all the way back to Adam. Then the Father of Adam... GOD. The lineage precursor in Luke begins with GOD as being the Father of Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah and terminates with GOD being the Father of the first Adam. Based on the facts and logical deduction, the genealogy listed in the Gospel of Luke is by the law of blood-line genetics being fully connected with the Divine. Additionally, it is by the law of the Heavenly Royal Lineage of promise through Abraham.

The Heavenly Royal and genetic Lineage of promise was prophesied in Genesis 3:15 to come through a woman. A curse was placed upon the serpent (Satan and his evil agents), and the promise of redemption is proclaimed through the woman's seed after the fall of Adam in Genesis 3:15. It reads, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman (*Eve*), and between your (*Satan's*) seed and her (*Eve's/Mary's*) seed. He (*the seed of the woman*) shall tread your head under foot, and you (Satan) shall strike Him in His heel." (Emphasis and insets my own. Quote from the Aramaic Peshitta.) Translations from the Hebrew text read, "bruise His heel." In this author's view, the genetic genealogy of Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah, recorded for us in Luke 3:21-38, demonstrates the "seed" prophesy recorded in Genesis 3:15.

Satan the devil has seed as stated in Genesis 3:15. During the time of Christ / Messiah's physical existence, Christ / Messiah told the scribes and Pharisees in the Gospel of John chapter 8, "You are of your father the devil..." The unholy spiritual seed of Satan (the adversary) entered into Jechonias, making his lineage unfit for the promised Messiah. This is one out of several ways the Serpent bruised "His heel."

From the Aramaic Peshitta, Genesis 49:10 reads, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, UNTIL the coming of the One to whom the scepter belongs, to whom the Gentiles shall look forward." (Emphasis my own.) Genesis 49:10 prophesied the Royal promised Seed would come through the son of Judah regardless of the spiritually defiled Solomon and Jechonias.

Isaiah 7:14, from the Dead Sea Scrolls reads, "...Behold the virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son and he shall call his name Emmanuel." The virgin prophesied was Mary, the mother of our Savior.

Luke 10:17-19 reads, "And the seventy (disciples) returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And He (Christ) said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Take notice of here... Christ gave His disciples the power to "tread on serpents." Serpents, in Aramaic tradition, metaphorically represent agents of evil forces. Christ's choice of words nor were the events He spoke of in this last said passage of scripture a mere coincidence with the idiom statement in Genesis 3:15.

We're informed the Royal Davidic and genetic lineage was granted through Nathan, *the brother* of Solomon. Therefore, the Royal Scepter has been taken away from the lineages of Solomon and Jechonias and fully transferred to the promised Seed, Jesus Christ / Yahushua Messiah to remain forever. The angel told Mary in Luke 1:32-33, "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (Also Ref: Luke 20:42-44; Rev 15:3; Rev. 17:14) (Side Refs: 1-Pet 2:5,9; Mark 3:33-35)

WHEREFORE; the genealogy recorded for us in the Gospel of Luke 3:21-38 is Mary's genealogy, the seed of the woman. Her seed, joined with the Divine Holy Spirit, now treads upon the head of the Serpent. However, it is our own personal choice which seed we choose to grow within ourselves.