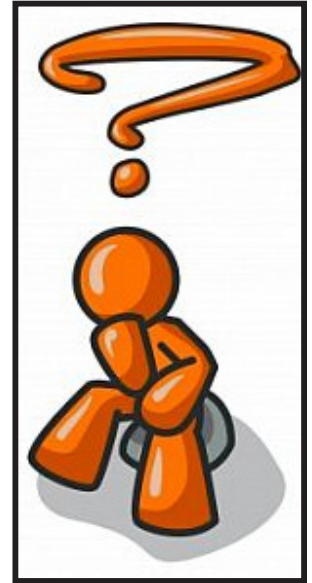


# What About ... Jesus' Right to Reign

The Gospel of Matthew tells us: *Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah* (Matthew 1:16).

Why is Joseph significant? There is a whole chapter of the Gospel of Matthew dedicated to the genealogy of Joseph. But since Jesus was incarnated by a virgin birth through a conception in Mary by the Holy Spirit, why is Joseph so important? The answer is because Joseph was essential for Jesus to have a genealogical right to reign as king over Israel. Mary's genealogy could not provide that.

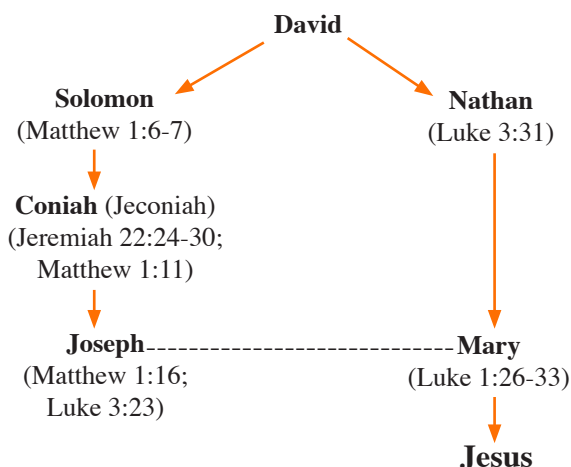
A thousand years before Jesus was born, God told David, *Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever* (2 Samuel 7:16). Shortly before his death, David told Bathsheba (his wife and Solomon's mother): *... surely as I vowed to you by the LORD the God of Israel, saying, 'Your son Solomon shall be king after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place'; I will indeed do so this day ... Let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there as king over Israel, and blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon.'* (1 Kings 1:30, 34). David had many sons, but only one would be king, and that would establish the genealogical line of the kings from then on. So only someone from the line of Solomon could have the legal right to reign.



But there was a problem. Just before the Babylonian Captivity of Judah, one of Solomon's descendent kings, a man called Coniah (or Jeconiah) was so bad, God said: *Write this man down childless, a man who will not prosper in his days; for no man of his descendants will prosper sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah* (Jeremiah 22:30). So the line of David through Solomon was cut off. Only the descendants of Coniah could be king over Israel because his was the line from David through Solomon, who had both the legal (designated by David) and royal (bloodline) right to reign. But when any of the seed of that line entered a woman, that child would be cut off because he would be a descendent of Coniah. Joseph was from the line of Coniah (Matthew 1:11, 16).

There were many children of David, and any of their descendants would have the royal (bloodline) right to reign. Mary was such a descendent. Mary came from the line of another son of David and Bathsheba named Nathan (Luke 3:31). But Mary could only give a child the royal right to reign, not the legal right. That could only come from a legal marriage to someone of the David—Solomon—Coniah line. But such a husband could not participate in the conception of the child, because the curse of Coniah would kick in, disqualifying the child.

You recall that, when Joseph was about to end his marriage betrothal to Mary, an angel was immediately sent essentially saying: "Don't do that" (Matthew 1:20). So the virgin birth of Jesus from Mary, who was legally married to Joseph, gave Jesus the legal and royal right to reign as king over Israel. There could never be another legal king over Israel fulfilling the promise to David without another virgin birth. Jesus had no children, so the line ended with Him. BUT He rose from the dead, thus fulfilling God's covenant with David:



*Your throne shall be established forever*  
*2 Samuel 7:16*