

1 John 5:12 - He who has the Son has eternal life; he who does not have the Son does not have eternal life.

v. 13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life. (EXT)

PART 3: Chronology

1. Narrowing the Line of Christ from Eve to Mary

There are nine major prophecies that narrow the line of Christ from Eve to Mary. Several have been referenced with regard to Mary's qualifications to be the mother of the biological life of Messiah, but we now note them in their chronological order.

1. The true humanity of Messiah will enter into human history by means of childbirth:

Prophecy:

Genesis 3:15 - "I will put enmity between you [Lucifer] and the woman [humanity], and between your seed [unbelievers] and her seed [Messiah]; He [Messiah], shall bruise you on the head [2d Advent], and you shall bruise Him on the heel [spiritual death at Calvary]."

Fulfillment:

Galatians 4:4 - When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.

Luke 2: 7 - And she [Mary] gave birth to her first-born Son; and she wrapped Him in burial cloths and laid Him in a feeding trough ...

Comment: Note that the genetic lineage of Messiah begins and ends with the name of a woman, which is contrary to the usual manner by which the Israelites recorded genealogies. Typically, only the man is mentioned and when a woman is in the family line the husband's name is often substituted. Beginning with Eve and ending with Mary, places great emphasis on the part the woman plays in the process.

It's not the obvious point that children are delivered by their mothers, but rather what Isaiah reveals is that several centuries later the Messiah will be the result of a *virgin* pregnancy.

2. The bloodline of Messiah's true humanity will go through Abraham and therefore, He would be a Jew:

Prophecy:

Genesis 22:18 - "In your [**Abraham's**] seed [the nominative masculine singular of זָרָא (zera'): referring to Messiah (see Galatians 3:16)] all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Fulfillment:

Matthew 1:1 - The record of the chart pedigree¹ of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham. (EXT)

Comment: Paul makes it clear that the "seed" referenced in Genesis 22:18 is masculine singular, thus indicating that Abraham's "seed" makes reference to the Messiah.

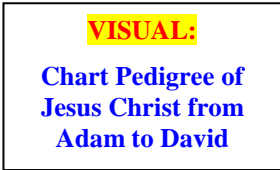
The King James Version translates the Greek noun σπέρμα (*spérma*) with "seed" while the New American Standard uses "descendants." See Romans 9:7; 11:1; 2 Corinthians 11:22; and Galatians 3:29.

Also notice the ultimate Heir of Abraham which Paul identifies in:

Galatians 3:16 - Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his Seed [singular of σπέρμα, (*spérma*): referring to Christ (See Genesis 22:18)]. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your Seed," that is, Christ.

3. Messiah's bloodline would proceed not through Ishmael, but rather through Isaac:

¹ The official chronicle of a family line is compiled by genealogists on what is called a "chart pedigree." Matthew and Luke contain two chart pedigrees of Jesus, the former gives the line of Joseph back to David through Solomon and the latter of Jesus back to David through Nathan. Luke's chart continues from David back to Adam.



Prophecy:

Genesis 17:18 - Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!"

v. 19 - God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants [*zera'*: "seed"] after him.

Fulfillment:

Matthew 1:2 - [Messianic chart pedigree continues] Abraham was the father of Isaac ... [See Luke 3:34]

Comment: The two genealogies of Jesus reflect two bloodlines. The account in Matthew tracks the legal line of Joseph back to Solomon while Luke's account tracks the bloodline of Mary back to Nathan.

4. Messiah's bloodline would pass from Isaac to Jacob:

Prophecy:

Genesis 28:13 - The Lord stood above it [the ladder in Jacob's dream] and said, "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your seed."

Numbers 24:17 - [Balaam's prophecy] "I see Him [Christ], but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel."

Fulfillment: Matthew 1:2 in Joseph's genealogy and Luke 3:34 in Mary's.

Comment: Common among the prophecies regarding "the Seed" is the promise of a land grant that is described as encompassing all that lies between the Nile and Euphrates rivers:

Genesis 15:18 - [The Lord speaking to Abraham] On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your seed I have given this land, from the river of Egypt [Nile] as far as the great river, the river Euphrates."

In each of the repetitions of this covenant to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the seed (descendants) of these men is promised this land grant and later, in the Davidic Covenant, a kingdom over which the Seed would rule in perpetuity.

5. Messiah's bloodline would continue from Jacob to his son Judah. The firstborn was Reuben who naturally expected to be given leadership assignments, but was scolded instead by Jacob:

Genesis 49:4a - "Uncontrolled as water, you shall not have preeminence ..."

Prophecy:

Genesis 49:10 - "The scepter [rulership] shall not depart from Judah [the line of royalty], nor the ruler's staff from between his feet [the descendants of Judah], until Shiloh [שִׁלֹהּ] *Shiloh*: "to Whom it, the scepter, belongs"] comes [2d Advent] ...

Fulfillment: In the genealogy of Joseph in Matthew 1:2 and of Mary in Luke 3:33.

Comment: In Revelation 5:5, the Lord is given the title the "Lion of the tribe of Judah." The Lord is described as both a Lamb and Lion in Scripture.

Jesus is called a Lamb in His death, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and a Lion in His resurrection and Second Advent (Revelation 5:5).

A summary of "Lion" as an antonomasia for the conquering Christ is provided by Herbert Lockyer:

The figure of the *Lion* applied to Jesus is indeed a forceful one. Noblest of animals, the lion has been called "the king of the beasts." The reason why Jesus is called "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" is because a lion was traced on the ensign or banner of Judah, noblest of the tribes of Israel, from which He sprang. Applied to Him, the lion is symbolic of His prowess, dignity, and great strength. When He comes to usher in His worldwide reign it will be as the all-powerful Lion.²

² Herbert Lockyer, *All the Divine Names and Titles in the Bible*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1975), 190.

6. The bloodline of Messiah is further narrowed down to one House in the tribe of Judah, that of David's:

Prophecy:

Isaiah 9:7 - There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of the armies will accomplish this.

Fulfillment:

Luke 1:68 - [Zacharias's prophecy] "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,

v. 69 - and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant."

Comment: The word "horn" is used figuratively in Scripture as an emblem of power. Jesus has the "power of salvation" to those who believe in Him.

7. The location of the Messiah's birth was predetermined in eternity past and prophesied around 740 years before the historic event:

Prophecy:

Micah 5:2 - (The Lord) "As for you Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

Fulfillment:

Luke 2:6 - While they [Joseph and Mary] were there [Bethlehem: see, Luke 2:4], the days were completed for her to give birth.

v. 7 - And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in burial cloths and laid him in a feeding trough ... (EXT)

Comment: Micah's prophecy is a divine pronouncement of the hypostatic union. The Lord states that from Bethlehem Ephrathah, "One will go forth for Me." This is the Messiah concept: the title means the "Anointed One" who is set apart for a special mission. He will commence that mission as He leaves Bethlehem and assumes the duties of the Incarnation.

Micah points out that the true humanity of Christ will have its beginnings in Bethlehem, fulfilled, as noted, in Luke 2:6-7, but he also makes it clear that this "One" is undiminished deity whose "goings forth are from long ago from the days of eternity."

8. The major prophecy regarding the Messiah is found in Isaiah where His human impeccability is established:

Prophecy:

Isaiah 7:14 - "The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel [**God is with us**].

Fulfillment:

Luke 1:26 - Now in the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

Luke 1:27 - to a virgin [παρθένος, *parthénos*] engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

v. 31 - (Gabriel) "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

v. 32 - "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

Comment:

Mary's pregnancy is called parthenogenesis: pregnancy without human fertilization, and it resulted in her giving birth to Jesus while still a virgin.

The importance of this doctrine cannot be overstated. Without the 23 male chromosomes of Joseph, the human zygote of Messiah is left without a genetically transferred sinful nature leaving His true humanity free of the imputed sin of Adam. This means that Jesus was born into this world exactly as Adam was created: absolutely perfect and thus qualified to be our substitute on the cross.

Note that Gabriel confirms what Isaiah prophesied: the Messiah, to be named Jesus, is in hypostatic union: **(1)** “Son of the Most High,” and **(2)** Son of David: “the throne of His father, David.”

9. Luke gives us the historical account of the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant which was prophesied by Nathan:

Prophecy:

2 Samuel 7:16 - (Nathan) “Your house [David’s royal line] and your kingdom [Israel] shall endure before Me forever; your throne [authority and rulership] shall be established forever [עוֹלָם ‘*olam*: for eternity].”

Fulfillment:

Luke 2:1 - Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth [**the Roman Empire**].

v. 2 - This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

v. 3 - And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

v. 4 - Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David.

v. 5 - He went to be registered with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him, and was with child.

v. 6 - And it came to pass while they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

Luke 2:7 - And she gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped Him in burial cloths and laid Him in a feeding trough, because there was no vacancy in the inn.

v. 8 - And in the same region there were shepherds bivouacking out in the fields, keeping guard over their flock by night.

Luke 2:9 - And the angel of the Lord [**Gabriel, seraph rank**] suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shined around them and they were extremely frightened.

v. 10 - And the seraph angel said to them, “Stop being frightened! Behold, I bring you good news of great inner happiness which shall be for all people;

v. 11 - for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior [Ἰησοῦς, *lēsoús*: **Jesus, which means “Savior”**], who is Christ [χριστός, *Christós*: **the Anointed One**; Hebrew: מָשִׁיחַ (*Mashiach*): **Messiah**] the Lord [κύριος, *kúrios*: **title of deity**].

v. 12 - “And this will be the sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in burial cloths and lying in a feeding trough [**prophetic for the spiritual and physical deaths of Jesus on the cross**].”

v. 13 - Suddenly there appeared with the seraph angel a large number of angelic armies praising God and saying,

v. 14 - “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace [εἰρήνη, *eirénē*: **prosperity of soul. Peace with God is reconciliation and is available through faith alone in Christ alone, therefore peace on earth is possible through Jesus Christ alone.**] among people with whom God is well-pleased [εὐδοκία, *eudokía*: **salvation is available only through the good-pleasure of God**]. (EXT)

Comment: The Christ prophecies culminated on the first Christmas night inaugurating the Incarnation of the Messiah, an event carefully tracked by prophecy, so that those who knew the Scripture would be able to identify Him.

It is interesting that when the Magi came to call on Jesus it caused King Herod to become upset much more than usual. The Parthian Magi coming to visit the Jewish Messiah caused him to fear for his position of power. He called the scribes, the resident experts in the Mosaic Law, and inquired where this Messiah was to be born.

The scribes knew exactly where and told the king in:

Matthew 2:5 - They [the scribes] said to him [Herod], "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

v. 6 - 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'

The scribes knew exactly where to find Messiah, yet they ignored the prophecy until Gentile astrologers showed up and a Jewish king became frightened he might lose his power to a Babe born in Bethlehem.

But the Christ Child's mission was not to conquer Herod or Rome, but to conquer sin and provide eternal life.

2 Corinthians 9:15 - Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

(End SBC15-01: Jesus *Is* the Messiah!)