

The Forgotten Miracle of Christmas!

Selected Scripture



I. Why was this Miracle Necessary?

- **A. God's promise to David.**
 - Gen. 3:15 – the future Seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent.
 - Gen. 4:26 – Line of Seth
 - Gen. 11:10-32 – Line of Shem
 - Gen. 12:1-3 – Descendant of Abraham (Jewish)
 - Gen. 21:12 – Through Isaac
 - Gen. 28:10-22 – Through Jacob
 - Gen. 49:10 – Judah
 - 2 Sam. 7:16 – a Descendant of one family in Judah—King David's

The Davidic Covenant

- Cf. 2 Sam. 23:5 - "Truly is not my house so with God? For He has made an everlasting covenant with me, Ordered in all things, and secured; For all my salvation and all my desire, Will He not indeed make *it* grow?"
- Its recipients: David and his descendants
- Its nature: unconditional
- Its provisions...
 - 1) An enduring dynasty – "YHWH will make a house for you" (2 Sam. 7:11)
 - 2) A successor – "I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you" (7:12ff)
 - 3) An eternal kingdom – "your kingdom shall endure before Me forever" (7:16)
- The ultimate fulfillment is after the Second Coming when He sets up His millennial kingdom (Ezek. 37; Zech. 14; Rev. 19).

I. Why was this Miracle Necessary?

- **A. God's promise to David.**
- **B. God's curse on Jeconiah.**

Jeconiah

- Birth name was Jeconiah (1 Ch. 3:16).
- Sometimes shortened to Coniah (Jer. 22:24, 28; 37:1).
- When he became King of Judah in 598 BC, his name became the more formal, Jehoiachin.
- Means: "YHWH will establish."
- Son of Jehoiakim.
 - killed in early Dec. 598 BC fighting raids on Judah incited by Nebuchadnezzar.
 - after his death, Jehoiachin, at 18 years old, ascended to the throne of the nation (2 Kings 24:8-17).

Jeconiah

- Ruled only three months and 10 days (2 Ch. 36:9).
- Carried off captive on March 16, 597 BC, dated by the Babylonian Chronicles.
- At the same time, both Ezekiel (Ezek. 1:1-2) and Mordecai (Esther 2:5-6) were taken captive.
- Taken along with Jeconiah were also his mother, Nehushta (2 Kings 24:8), his wives (2 Kings 24:15), and his children.
- After the death of Nebuchadnezzar in 562 BC, his imprisonment was mitigated, but not his captivity (Jer. 52:31-34).

Jeconiah

- Jer. 22:24-30
- 2 Kings 24:9 - He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.
 - Jer. 22:8-9 - idolatry; 22:13-17 - various sins.
- 2 Ch. 36:9 - Jehoiachin was eight[teen] years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

I. Why was this Miracle Necessary?

- **A. God's promise to David.**
- **B. God's curse on Jeconiah.**
- **C. There appears to be an irreconcilable conflict between these two promises.**
 - The problem?
 - Jeconiah is in the line of David, through Solomon.

II. What Is the Forgotten Miracle of Christmas?

- Buried in the NT genealogies of our Lord.
- Matthew and Luke
 - Luke goes back to Adam; Matthew goes back only to Abraham.
 - From Abraham to David the two genealogies are practically identical.
- The most difficult differences are the generations from David to Christ.
- Two obvious problems:
 - 1) The number of generations.
 - 2) The names are greatly different.
 - In fact, from David to Christ, they share only two names: Shealtiel and Zerubbael.

The Genealogies of Two Different People

Matthew 1:1-17

- The genealogy of Jesus
- Joseph, his legal father
- Through David's son, Solomon
- Includes Jeconiah (& the curse); Matt. 1:11
- The legal claim to the throne passed to Jesus through Joseph.

Luke 3:23b-38

- The genealogy of Jesus
- Mary, His physical mother
- Through David's son, Nathan (Luke 3:31)
- Excludes Jeconiah (& the curse)
- The physical claim to the throne passed to Jesus through Mary.

III. What Are the Lessons Behind this Miracle?

- **A. God keeps His promises of judgment just as certainly as His other promises.**
 - Ps. 76:7 - You, even You, are to be feared; And who may stand in Your presence when once You are angry?
 - Rev. 6:16-17 - and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

III. What are the lessons behind this miracle?

- **A. God keeps His promises of judgment just as certainly as His other promises.**
- **B. God delights to keep His gracious promises and He will do whatever it takes to keep them.**
 - Ps. 138:8 - The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.
 - Phil. 1:6 - For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - 1 Th. 5:24 - Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

III. What are the lessons behind this miracle?

- A. God keeps His promises of judgment just as certainly as His other promises.
- B. God delights to keep His gracious promises and He will do whatever it takes to keep them.
- C. The curse on Jeconiah puts a brilliant spotlight on our Lord.
 - Jer. 22:24-30 - Jeconiah, the stump.
 - Cf. Jer. 23:1-8 - Messiah, the branch.
 - Cf. Is. 11:1 - Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

The Stump & the Sprout

