

## WHO WAS JOSEPH'S FATHER?

**Request:** “You mentioned two genealogies of Jesus Christ (Matthew and Luke), when I read them I noticed two different names given for the father of Joseph. Could you explain please?”

This request offers us a look into the unique legal aspect of the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

Because of the divine person and work of Jesus Christ, the enemies of spiritual truth would like to confuse and distort the truth regarding Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world.

The biological father of Jesus Christ has always been a subject of great debate even in the day of Jesus.

This was an issue for Nathaniel in John 1:44-51 as well as for other Jews in John 6:41-51.

Matthew says that Jacob was the father of Joseph (Matt.1:16) while Luke says that Heli was his father (Lk.3:23).

**This lesson will offer SIX answers to the confusion over the father of Joseph.**

### **1. Matthew and Luke ran two different lines of genealogies to the birth of Jesus Christ.**

- Matthew runs from Abraham, through David to Jesus
- Luke runs his from Adam to Jesus.

#### **Matthew runs the ruling line from David**

- Solomon - Coniah – **Shealtiel** – Zerubbabel (Matt.1:6-12).

#### **Luke runs the blood line from David**

- Nathan – Neri – **Shealtiel** – Zerubbabel (Lk.3:27-31).
- Matthew runs the ruling lineage of Joseph to the house of David while Luke is runs the blood lineage of Mary to the house of David.

### **2. The Roman census will require them to register in the home town of their ancestry.**

They will both travel to Bethlehem, the place of David's birth (Lk.2:1-7; Matt.2:1-6; 1 Sam.16).

The prophase was that Christ would be born in Bethlehem, the city of David (Micah 5:2; Matt.2:5-6).

### **3. Luke used the Greek definite article (tou) [genitive of relationship] in a legal way**

(Lk.3:23b) Jesus: “Being supposedly a (no article) son of Joseph, the (article / tou) son of Heli.”

Luke has used the definite article (tou) 76 times in a legal sense through-out the genealogy to establish a pattern. However, he doesn't us it with Jesus as “son of Joseph”.

“Luke carefully guards the virgin birth story (Lk.1:26-38) and needed here only to remark that the folk in Nazareth, ignorant of the true story, assumed that Jesus was Joseph's son.” (Renaissance of NT, vol.4, pg.55)

**4. This was a way to introduce a son-in-law since there was no Greek word for it.**

Joseph was the son-in-law of Heli and Jesus was his grandson on Mary's side.

“The ou in the genitive relationship (meaning ‘the son of’) with the indeclinable proper name.”  
(Ren. of NT, pg.56)

This is based daughter's inheritance of Num.27:1-11.

“Actually Joseph was the heir of Heli by virtue of being married to Heli's daughter, Mary.”  
(Ren. of NT, pg.55)

**NOTE:** If you married outside the tribal inheritance, the daughter's inheritance couldn't be transferred  
(Num.36:6-9).

- This ‘law’ was very important to Luke, in order for him to biblically qualify Jesus as heir to the eternal plan of God
  - (Lk.2:1-7) “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.”

**5. Matthew and Luke have introduced us to other unique legal aspects to the genealogy of Jesus Christ.**

**I will share three of them.**

- **Matthew:** David – Solomon – **Coniah** – Shealtiel – Zerubbabel (Matt.1:6-11) [Ruling line]
- **Luke:** David – Nathan – **Neri** – **Shealtiel** – Zerubbabel (Lk.3:27-31) [Blood line].
- **Coniah** was cursed with a childless throne of David. It would continue unto the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Jer.22:30; Matt.2).
- **Neri** married Coniah's daughter during the Babylon Captivity under the daughter's inheritance law (Num.27; Matt.1:11).
- **Shealtiel** died childless (curse of Coniah) and his brother, Pedaiah, married his widow and became the Goel father of Zerubbabel under the Levirate law (Deut.25:5-6; 1 Chron.3:17-19).

**6. It is important to notice that Luke traced the lineage of Jesus Christ all the way back to Adam.**

(Lk.3:38). “The son of Adam, the son of God.”

Luke identified the Last Adam with the First Adam. Paul did it also:

(1 Cor.15:45) “It is written, ‘The first man, Adam, became a living soul.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”

While the first Adam was the only **Created** son of God, the Last Adam was the Only **Begotten** Son of God (John 3:16; Lk.1:34-35; 1 John 4:9-10; 2:2).

All members of the human race are born into the curse of the first Adam's sin, resulting in death. (Rom.5:12-21).

All Church Age Believers (CAB) are born again, in the Last Adam's by His life giving Spirit (1 Cor.15:45; John 3:5-8; 1 Pet.1:23).

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**