

Thursology 77: Did Jesus FAKE the Resurrection??? The Passover Plot & the Stolen Body Story (The Preposterous Claims of Christ-Pt 4)

(Thursology Live! 4/14/22)

--The preposterous claims of Jesus of Nazareth:

--I AM the Great I AM...and...I AM the Messiah.

--Week 1: The astronomical mathematics

--The likelihood that Jesus could have fulfilled just ten of the prophecies...is as likely as winning a state lottery three times in a row...without losing in between!!!

--Week 2: Messiah had to thread the historical needle

--Messiah had to be born...before AD 7...to fulfill Gen 49 (The Scepter)!!!

--Messiah had to die...after AD 7...to be crucified (rather than stoned)!!!

--Messiah had to die...before AD 70...to fulfill Daniel 9 (Messiah would be cut off before the Temple was destroyed)...and because the genealogies were destroyed when the Temple was leveled...thus making it forever-after impossible to verify any would-be Messiah's lineage!!!

--Week 3: An OT threat to Jesus' Messiahship: Joseph's sons could not reign as Israel's king

--Problem #1: The persistent unfaithfulness of Solomon and his descendants.

--Problem #2: Jeremiah's specific disqualification of Jeconiah and his descendants

--The resolution:

--Mary's lineage comes directly from David's...through his son Nathan...bypassing Solomon and Jeconiah...and keeping Jesus' kingly and Messianic lineage intact!!!

--The Centrality of the Resurrection

--Rev 14:13: And I heard a voice from heaven, saying..."Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord"

--The "Passover Plot"

--The "Plot": Jesus attempted to authenticate Himself as the _____ by deliberately _____ out the Old Testament prophecies.

--How could Jesus have possibly pulled this off???

--Prophecy #1: The method of His execution was prophesied at least eight _____ before crucifixion was even _____

--Psalm 22:16: For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.

--Prophecy #2: In the midst of the crucifixion...they would cast _____ for His _____

--Psalm 22:18: They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots

--Prophecy #3: They would give Him vinegar and gall to _____

--Psalm 69:21: They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

--Prophecy #4: His grave was assigned with _____ men...and yet...supposedly He was also going to end up with a _____ man in His death???

--Isa 53:9a, b: His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death...

--A ridiculously difficult combination of prophecies to fulfill: Jesus died with _____...and yet...He was buried in the _____ tomb of Joseph of Arimathea!!!

--Some really telling questions:

--Question #1: Can anyone actually conceive of Roman soldiers being part of a _____...and _____ helping to act out the applicable _____ ???

--Question #2: Even if He had the money for a _____...how could Jesus have known which soldiers would be _____ to the cross so He could pay them in _____ ???

--Question #3: Can any unbiased person conceive that Judas _____ himself to deceive the Jews into following a _____ Messiah???

--An incredibly easy way to disqualify Jesus: All that the rabbis had to do to _____ Jesus' messianic claim was to pay Judas _____ pieces of silver instead of 30. (Zech 11:10-12)

--An amazing paradox: The actions of the people who most wanted to _____ Jesus...ended up providing the most powerful _____ that Jesus was _____ Who He said He was.

--Two irreconcilable accounts of what happened after Jesus' death:

--1st account: The _____ of Jesus

--I Cor 15:3-8: 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

--Rom 10:8-9: But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...

--2nd Account: The Disciples _____ the _____

--Matt 28:11-15: Now while they were on their way, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all that had happened. And when they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep.'" And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." And they took the money and did as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread among the Jews, and is to this day.

--The Heresy: Easter is simply _____ of Christ being victorious...and a resurrection of Jesus' _____ is... _____

--The Biblical Foundation: In Scripture...the bodily resurrection is treated as the _____ event upon which Christianity _____ or _____!!!

--I Cor 15:12-19: Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

--The “Stolen Body” story:

--An unassailable historical fact: That the authorities had every reason to _____ the body...but didn't...and that the tomb was verifiably _____...is a matter of historic record by _____ accounts!!!

--The biggest missed opportunity in history: Those with a vested interest in the “Jesus-is-alive Problem” going away...missed their chance to _____ the _____ tomb!!!

--The Disciple Fact: If we know nothing else about the Disciples...we know that they were _____ of the _____ order!!!

--An irreconcilable disqualification for the veracity of the “Stolen Body Story”: The Roman soldiers had _____ fallen _____ ...and yet...they _____ who had _____ the body

--Irrefutable arguments against the “conspiracy theory”:

--Counter-apologetic #1: A conspiracy would never have had _____ be the _____ of the risen Christ!!!

--Counter-apologetic #2: When the resurrection was reported to the _____...they were actually _____!!!

--Luke 24:1-22a, 25-27, 31, 33-34, 36-44

--One of the most remarkable and telling statements in all of Scripture: “...the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. But these words appeared to them as _____, and they would not _____ them.”

--Counter-apologetic #3: The greatest _____...became the most convincing _____!!!

--Who was the greatest skeptic in all of history? → “_____” Thomas

--John 20:19-20, 24-28: So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord...But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

--The great gift of Thomas's doubt: The _____ of the _____ resurrection of Jesus Christ

--**The most powerful evidence for the resurrection:**

--One of the greatest surprises in all of Christian apologetics: The _____ powerful authenticating evidence for the Resurrection...didn't come while He was still _____ the Disciples...but after He was _____!!!

--The greatest witness of history: After Jesus _____ them...the previously-_____ Disciples...went on to courageously _____ for their witness of the Resurrection!!!

--The key difference: Lots of people have died for _____ causes that they believe are _____...but no one dies for a cause that they know is _____!!!

--The unassailable verification of The Resurrection: A tiny band of cowardly, brokenhearted, disillusioned followers of a _____ and _____ rabbi...became fearless, unshakable, undaunted, courageous _____ as a direct result of _____...this very story!!!

Thursology 76: Jesus INVALIDATED??? Joseph's Son COULDN'T Be Israel's King!!! (Jesus' Preposterous Claims-Pt 3)

Thursology Live! 4/7/22)

--The (preposterous) claims of Jesus of Nazareth: I AM the Great I AM...and...I AM the Messiah!!!

--Ten fulfilled prophecies: The astronomical mathematics

--The incomprehensible probability of meeting just TEN of the Old Testament prophecies:

--Approximately 9.3×10^{17} (9,300,000,000,000,000,000!!!)

--The Historical Timing of the Life and Death of Messiah: Threading the historical needle

--An Old Testament threat to Jesus' Messiahship

--A Big Problem for Jesus: There's a very serious issue within His very **LINEAGE** that appears to **THREATEN** Jesus' claim to be Israel's Messiah!!!

--II Sam 7:4, 9, 12-13: But in the night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying...“Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant *David*...When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, *I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.* He shall build a house for My name, *and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

--The mandate of royal ancestry: The Messiah had to be an **HEIR** to **DAVID'S** throne

1. Messiah had to be a descendant of **ABRAHAM**

--Gen 12:1-3: Now the Lord said to Abram, “...I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And *in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*”

2. Messiah had to be a descendant of **ISAAC**

--Gen 17:18-19: And Abraham said to God, “Oh that Ishmael might live before You!” But 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 after him.

3. Messiah had to be a descendant of **JACOB**

--Gen 28:12-14: “...and (the Lord) said (to Jacob), “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 descendants. Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and *in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*”

4. Messiah had to be a descendant of **JUDAH**

--Gen 49:8, 10: *Judah*, your brothers shall praise you...Your father's sons shall bow down to you...The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes...”

5. Messiah had to be a descendant of **JESSE**

--Isa 11:1-2: Then a shoot will spring from the stem of *Jesse*...And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

--Complication #1: The **DISQUALIFYING** unfaithfulness of **SOLOMON** and his descendants

--Psa 132:11-12: The Lord has sworn to David a truth from which He will not turn back: "Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne. If your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I will teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever."

--God's promise to David and his descendants: The promise that his descendants would sit on the **THRONE** of Israel...was **CONDITIONAL!!!**

--I Kings 2:1-4: As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, "I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. Keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the Law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn, so that the Lord may carry out His promise which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons are careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

--God's promise to Solomon and his descendants: The promise that his descendants would sit on the **THRONE** of Israel...was **CONDITIONAL!!!**

--I Kings 11:4-6: For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father had done.

--Vv. 9-11, 28-31, 34, 36: Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because his heart was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel...but he did not observe what the Lord had commanded. So the Lord said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant...Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior...and it came about at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had clothed himself with a new cloak...Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak which was on him and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes...Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand...But to his son I will give one tribe...

--A major problem: Because of Solomon's unfaithfulness...his sons were no longer heirs to the **ETERNAL** throne of **ISRAEL**

--Complication #2: The specific **DISQUALIFICATION** of Jehoiachin and his **DESCENDANTS** from Israel's **THRONE** (Jer 22:24, 30)

--"As I live," declares the Lord, "even though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were a signet ring on My right hand, yet I would pull you off...Thus says the Lord, '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.'"

--The specific disqualification: Jeconiah's descendants could not sit on the throne of **DAVID**...and could not rule in **JUDAH!!!**

--Matt 1:16: Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

--Genealogy Point #1: Jesus was the son of **JOSEPH**

- V. 6: Jesse was the father of David the king. David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah.
- Genealogy Point #2: Joseph was a direct descendent of **SOLOMON** ...whose descendants could not sit on the throne of **ISRAEL**!!!
- V. 1, 11: "The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham...and Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers..."
- Genealogy Point #3: Joseph was a direct descendent of **JECONIAH** whose descendants could not sit on the throne of **JUDAH**!!!
- Jer 22:30: "Thus says the Lord, '...no man of (Jeconiah's) descendants will prosper sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.'"
- The consequence of Solomon's and Jeconiah's disobedience: No son of **JOSEPH** could sit on **DAVID'S** throne.
- The Matthew pattern of the genealogy: →
- 1:13: "...to Zerubbabel was born..." → 1:14: "...to Azor was born..." → 1:15: "...to Eliud was born..." → 1:16: "...to Jacob was born Joseph..."
- What the next phrase would it say if the pattern was unaltered:
 - "...and to Joseph was BORN Jesus..."
- The dramatic change in pattern: (Matt 1:16)
- Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born..."
- What do we find instead? "...and to Jacob was born Joseph the **HUSBAND** of **MARY**, by whom was BORN Jesus..."
- Why does the pattern of Jesus' genealogy change??? Because Jesus' true Father was not **JOSEPH**...His true Father was **JEHOVAH**!!!
- The incredibly important point of Joseph's relationship to Jesus: Joseph was Jesus' **ADOPTIVE** father!!!
- The Prophetic mandates of Messiah's lineage:
 - Mandate #1: The prophets had foretold that the Messiah's **HUMAN** lineage had to come through **DAVID**!!!
 - Mandate #2: Messiah's lineage had to **BYPASS** Solomon and Jeconiah!!!
- Key Concept: For Jesus to be **MESSIAH**...we must show that **MARY'S** Son was an heir to the throne of Israel!!!
- Luke 3:31-34: "...the son of David, the son of Jesse...the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham..."
- V. 23: "...When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being supposedly, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli..."
- A telling point of the Luke genealogy: Jesus was "**SUPPOSEDLY**" the Son of Joseph.
- An apparent contradiction: Who was Joseph's father?
 1. Joseph was **BORN** to Jacob. (Matt 1)
 2. Joseph was the **SON** of Eli/Heli. (Luke 3)
- The resolution: Eli was Joseph's father-**IN-LAW**...and Mary's **FATHER**

--Three key genealogical facts:

1. Jeconiah is not in **MARY'S** lineage!!!
2. Mary's lineage comes directly from **DAVID**...through his son **NATHAN**...and **BYPASSES** Solomon!!! ([Luke 3:23, 31](#))
--When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being supposedly, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli...the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David..."
3. While Joseph's sons would not be...Mary's Son is an **HEIR** to the **THRONE** of Israel!!!

--**Application #1:** There are reasons why God put **TWO** lineages of Jesus in the Scripture

- Point #1: Joseph's line reveals God's **HOLINESS**
- Point #2: Mary's line reveals God's **PATIENCE** and **GRACE**
- Point #3: Mary's line also reveals God's **SOVEREIGNTY**!!!

--**Application #2:** When confronted with someone who's skeptical about Jesus...if you've been on **RUN**...stop **RUNNING**!!!

--www.Reasons.org (Reasons to Believe: Hugh Ross)

--**Application #3:** The Scripture and common historical facts point **UNDENIABLY** to the **TRUTH** of Jesus' claims!!!

--**Application #4:** When you boil all of **HISTORY** down...Jesus Christ stands at its **CENTER**!!! → [Malcomb Muggeridge](#):

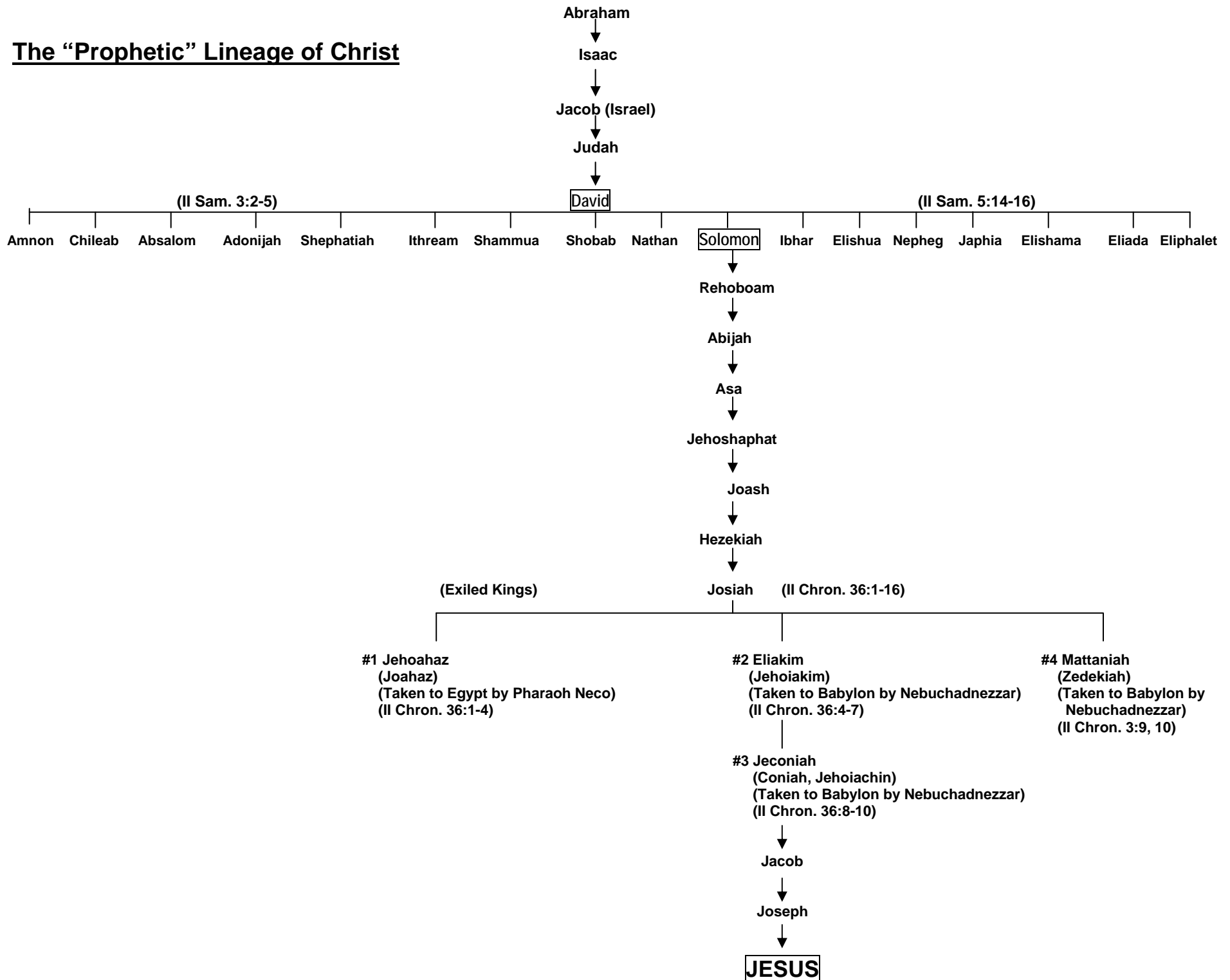
"We look back upon history and what do we see? Empires rising and falling...Revolutions and counter-revolutions...wealth accumulated and wealth disbursed. Shakespeare has spoken of the rise and fall of great ones that ebb and flow with the moon. I look back upon my own countrymen, once dominating a quarter of the world...most of them convinced of the words in the still popular song that "the God who made them mighty...will make them mightier yet."

I've heard a crazed, cracked Austrian announce the establishment of a Reich that would last a thousand years. I've heard an Italian clown say that he was going to stop and restart the calendar with his own ascension to power. I've met a murderous Georgian brigand in the Kremlin acclaimed by the intellectual elite of the world as wiser than Solomon...more humane than Marcus Aurelius...more enlightened than the Schokar. All in one lifetime...all in one lifetime...all gone...gone with the wind.

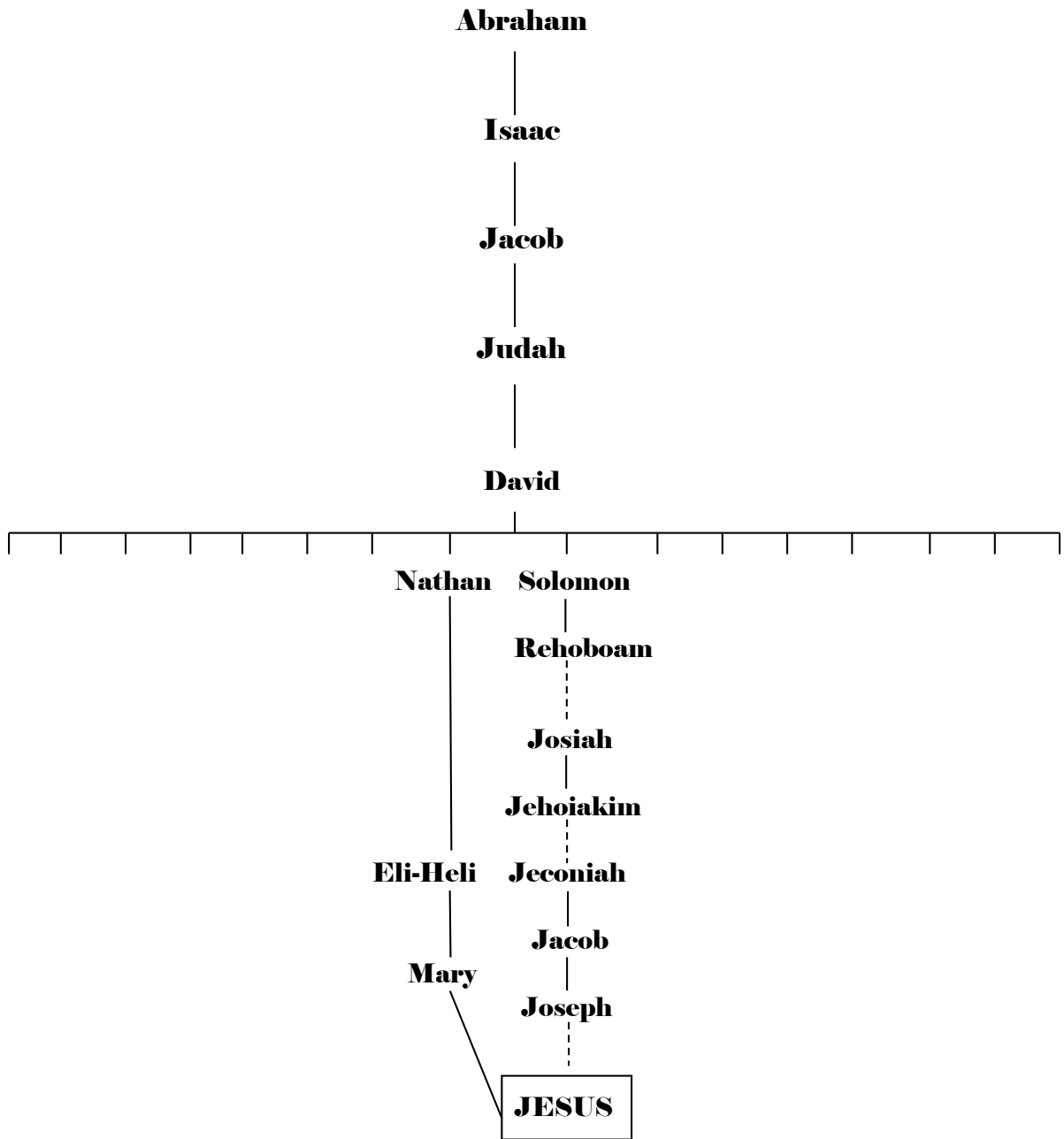
England, part of a tiny island off the coast of Europe, threatened with dismemberment and even bankruptcy...Hitler and Mussolini...dead and remembered only in infamy. Stalin, a forbidden name in the regime that he helped found and dominate for three decades. America, haunted by fears of running out of those precious fluids that keep her motorways roaring and the smog settling with troublesome memories of a disastrous campaign in Vietnam and the victories of the media as they charged the windmills of Watergate. All in one lifetime...all gone.

Behind the debris of these solemn supermen and self-styled imperial diplomatists...stands the gigantic figure of One Person...because of Whom...by Whom...in Whom...and through Whom ALONE Mankind may still have hope...the Person of Jesus Christ.

The “Prophetic” Lineage of Christ



Jesus' Messianic Lineage Through Mary's Line (Luke 3)



DEFENDING THE FAITH

JESUS OF NAZARETH FULFILLED OVER 300 PROPHECIES

- Dan 9:24-25a: EXACT date of Triumphal Entry.
- Dan 9:26a: "Cut off" before destruction of the sanctuary in AD 70.
- Exod 12:1-3: Passover Lamb taken from flock on Nisan 10 (Triumphal Entry).
- Exod 12:5-6: Lamb slain on Nisan 14.
- Gen 49:10: Born BEFORE scepter taken from Israel.
- Micah 5:2, 4-5a: Born in Bethlehem.
- Psa 22:18: Lots cast for His garments: Luke 23:33-34
- Zech 11:10-12: 30 shekels of silver paid for betrayer's wages: Matt 26:14-15
- Exod 12:43-46: Bones could not be broken.
- Psa. 22:16: Cut off by being CRUCIFIED.
- Likelihood of a Hebrew male fulfilling just **10** prophecies:
Approximately **1 in 9,300,000,000,000,000** (As likely as winning a state lottery **THREE** times in a row without **LOSING** in between).

TIMING OF LIFE OF MESSIAH:

- Commonly accepted fact: Jesus was crucified by Rome in the 4th decade AD.
- Dan. 9:24-26a:** Had to die BEFORE AD 70 when the Romans destroyed the temple.
- The right of Israel to declare capital punishment was taken away in AD 7 by Rome: **John 18:28-32**
- John 8:56-59:** If the Jews had **executed** Jesus, He would have been **STONED**.
- Had to be crucified:
 - Hands and feet **pierced**: **Psa. 22:16** Note: The form of execution was prophesied nearly 1000 years BEFORE it was even invented by the Romans.
 - Had to be **LIFTED UP**: **Num. 21:4-9, John 3:13-15; 12:23-24, 27, 32; Deut. 21:18-23a** → **Gal. 3:13**
- Gen. 49:10:** After the scepter departed in AD 7, it was forever too **late** for Messiah to be **born**.

SUMMARY— Messiah:

- Had to be born BEFORE AD 7
- Had to die AFTER AD 7
- Had to die between AD 7 and AD 70
- Could not be identified after AD 70—Genealogies were destroyed with the temple by General Titus of Rome.

A THREAT TO JESUS' MESSIAHSHIP

- The Messiah had to be an **heir** to David's **throne**: **II Sam 7:8-9, 12-13**:
- PROBLEM #1:** The **GENERAL** unfaithfulness of **SOLOMON** and his descendants.
 - Psa 132:10-12:** The promise that **David's** descendants would sit on the throne of Israel was **CONDITIONAL**.
 - I Kings 2:1-4:** The promise that **SOLOMON'S** descendants would sit on the throne of Israel was **CONDITIONAL**.
 - I Kings 11:1-8:** Solomon broke **covenant** with God.
 - Vv. 9-12, 30-31, 38:** Because of Solomon's unfaithfulness, his descendants were no longer heirs to the THRONE of **ISRAEL**.
- PROBLEM #2:** The specific **CURSE** on Jehoiachin and his **DESCENDANTS**.
 - Jer 22:24-30:** Jeconiah's descendants could not sit on the THRONE of **JUDAH**.
 - Matt 1:16:** Jesus was the son of **JOSEPH**.
 - V. 6:** Joseph—direct descendent of **SOLOMON**—couldn't be king of **ISRAEL**.
 - V. 11:** Joseph—direct descendent of **JECONIAH**—couldn't be king of **JUDAH**.
 - Matt 1:13-16:** What's missing? "...to **JOSEPH** was BORN **JESUS**..."
 - Instead: "...Joseph the **HUSBAND** of **MARY**, by whom was born **JESUS**..."
 - Why? Jesus' TRUE Father was not **Joseph**...His TRUE Father was **Jehovah**.
 - Joseph was Jesus' **ADOPTIVE** father.
 - Therefore, **MARY'S** Son had to be an heir to the throne of Israel → **Luke 3:23-34**.
 - Joseph was **BORN** to Jacob (Matt 1), but, Joseph was the **SON** of Eli (Luke 3)
 - Joseph had two fathers: One by flesh (Jacob) and one by law (Eli).
 - Eli was Joseph's **FATHER-IN-LAW**. Eli was MARY'S **FATHER** → Luke 3 is MARY'S LINEAGE. AND...it shows **Mary's** lineage comes directly from **DAVID** and **bypasses** Jeconiah and Solomon.

Books to Read and Recommend

- Mere Christianity*: CS Lewis
- The Reason for God*: Timothy Keller
- The Case for Christ*: Lee Strobel
- Christian Apologetics*: Norman L. Geisler
- When Critics Ask*: Norman Geisler & Thomas Howe
- He Walked Among Us*: Josh McDowell (Amazon.com—Used Section)
- The Case for Faith*: Lee Strobel
- Evidence that Demands a Verdict*: Josh McDowell
- Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties*: Gleason L. Archer, Jr