

The Father of Mary's Husband Was Heli

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The Father of Joseph, Mary's Husband Was
Jacob
(*Matthew 1:16*)

The Father of Mary's Husband Was Heli
(*Luke 3:23*)

The scriptures referred to in this study cover two separate lineages and both lead to Jesus Christ (see lewendwater.org/companion/append99.html). Matthew's lineage began with Abraham and ended with Joseph, the stepfather of Christ, while Luke's lineage began with Adam and ended with Mary, Christ's biological mother. Because Mary's husband, Joseph, traced his "family tree" back to King David, through Solomon, Christ could claim the prophecies referring to him as a descendant of David, in a legal sense, through his stepfather. Because Mary's father, Heli (or Eli), could trace his family back to Nathan, the second surviving son of David through Bathsheba, Christ could claim that he was a direct descendant of David through his mother. Consequently, both Joseph's and Mary's lineages could be traced back to King David, and this had to be the case because "the Messiah" was to come through a descendant of King David.

For unto us a child (the Messiah; Jesus Christ) is born, unto us a son (of Almighty God and the Son of Man) is given; and **the government** (of Almighty God) **will be upon his shoulder** (Christ's responsibility to administer his heavenly Father's law and commandments). And his name will be called Wonderful (cf. Jgs. 13:18; proof that the Angel of the Lord became Jesus Christ), Counselor (Messenger (Angel) of great counsel;

The Septuagint); Mighty God (Christ carries all the titles of his heavenly Father; cf. Ex. 23:20-21), Everlasting Father (cf. Eph. 3:14-15; Isa. 22:20-23), Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom**, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward (at Christ's second coming), even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isa. 9:6-7; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And behold, you (Mary) will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son, and shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest (Almighty God); and **the Lord God will give him** (Christ) **the throne of his father David**. ³³And he will reign over the house of Jacob (all twelve tribes or families; not just the tribe of Judah – the Jews) forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end (Lk. 1:31-33; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Matthew's lineage went back to Abraham in order to focus attention on the promises that were given to him and fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

I (God) will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you (through one of Abraham's descendants) **all the families of the earth shall** (in the future through Christ's sacrifice) **be blessed** (Gen. 12:3; cf. 28:14; Ed. notes in parentheses).

You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, **saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed** (Jesus Christ) **all the families of the earth shall be blessed**. ²⁶To you first, God having raised up His servant Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning every one of you from your iniquities (Ac. 3:25-26; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Luke's lineage went back to the time of Adam when a prophecy was given showing that Jesus Christ, who was the Seed of the woman, would break the serpent's (Satan's) head (iniquitous schemes and plans that lead to death).

And I (God) will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman (ecclesiastical symbol; cf. Rev. 12:13-17; see study: A Contentious Woman and A Harlot), and between your (Satan's) seed (all who persist in breaking God's commands; Jn. 8:42-44) and her Seed (Jesus Christ); he (Christ) shall bruise your (Satan's) head, and you (Satan) shall bruise his (Christ's) heel (cause temporary injury and pain; cf. Jn. 13:27) (Gen. 3:15; Ed. notes in parentheses).

With this background information, the apparent contradiction in Luke 3:23 can be examined.

Now Jesus himself began his ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed; Gr. *nomizo*; as reckoned by law) the son of Joseph, the son (in-law) of Heli (Lk. 3:23; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Joseph, Christ's stepfather, was begotten by Jacob (Mt. 1:16), and was his natural son. However, Joseph could be the legal son of Heli by marriage to Heli's daughter Mary. In this case, Joseph was the son of Heli as reckoned by the law, or more accurately Heli's son-in-law. It was through Joseph's marriage to Mary that both family lines were united and as Christ was raised from the dead, he is the only legitimate heir to the throne of David.

Some Bible commentators claim that Luke 3:23 is an error that was made by one or more translators. As this cannot be proven conclusively, it seems more likely that Luke's rendering of Mary's genealogy is correct and that it was meant to draw attention to both family

lines being united through the marriage of Joseph to Mary.

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