

Christmas

At the Chapel of the Opened Book

Graham Thomason

Christ-mas = Messiah-mas

It is about a person

χρίω = chrīō = to anoint.

Χριστός = Christos = Anointed (One).

מָשַׁח = māshach = to anoint, baste (Ex 29:2)

מָשִׁיחַ = māshiach = messiah

Kings are anointed – messiahs – in the Old Testament.

But there is one *par excellence*.

Some Christmas Card Favourite Verses

Isaiah 9:6 (Alluded to in **Lk 2:11.**)

For **a child is to be born for us,**

A son is to be given to us,

And he will shoulder government,

And he will be called Wonderful, Counsellor,

Mighty GOD, Father of Perpetuity,

Prince of Peace.

1 John 4:9, 1 John 4:14b

- This *is* how the love of God was made manifest among us: in that God has sent his only-begotten son into the world in order that we should live through him.
- The father has sent the son *as the* saviour of the world.

Luke 2:11

- For today a saviour, who is Christ ***the* Lord, was born to you** in *the* city of David.

Luke 2:14 – A Textual Issue

Luke 2:14 FAA	Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις θεῶ, καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη· ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία.	“Glory in <i>the</i> highest <i>realms</i> to God, And peace on earth; Goodwill among men.”
---------------------	---	---

B^c κ^c ℣ (about 2000) K L M P U Γ Δ Θ Λ Ψ f¹ f¹³ 2 28 157 (Swanson). All Scrivener’s 27 manuscripts. Dean John Burgon (Revision Revised p. 43) adds 29 early (2nd – 7th century) church fathers

Luke 2:14 NIV	Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις θεῶ, καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη· ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία ^ς .	“Glory to God in the highest heaven, And on earth peace To those on whom his favour rests.”
---------------------	---	---

B* κ* A D W (Swanson). NA²⁸ gives 2 church fathers. This reading is in W&H and the R.V. etc. Burgon (Revision Revised p. 41) explains how the ἐν dropped out, then to make better Greek the sigma was added at the end. N.B. When I look at the scans of at B (03) and κ (01), I don’t see any trace of an old sigma. But Burgon accepted B* κ* A D. I can show the issue later with recording off.

Wikipedia, Brooke Foss Westcott

History of the page, as edited on 26 September 2015, at 19:44 (UTC).

Since controversy was "un-Christian," he refused to answer John Burgon's arguments concerning the Local Text of Alexandria which Westcott helped exalt. He simply said, "I cannot read Mr. Burgon yet. ..."

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Brooke_Foss_Westcott&oldid=682889761

Let's just go back to the true text.

“Glory in *the* highest *realms* to God,
And peace on earth;
Goodwill among men.”

BTW, Some places to get Christian Cards

- <https://gospelcardsetc.com/>
- <https://www.barnabasaid.org/gb/resources/christmas-cards/>
- <https://justcardsdirect.com/>
- <https://www.dayone.co.uk/collections/cards-and-gifts/christmas-card>

What we will look at

Christ in the O.T. & Christ in the N.T.

The first announcement

- In prophecy
 - How will the Messiah come?
 - When will the Messiah come?
 - Where will he come?
 - What will his lineage be?
- As history, fulfilment
 - How did the Messiah come?
 - When did the Messiah come?
 - Where did he come?
 - What was his lineage?

Promises of the Messiah

The first announcement

Gen 3:14 -15

At this the LORD God said to the serpent, [Satan, the devil, Rev 20:2]

“Because you have done this,

You *are* more cursed than all the cattle

And than all the wild animals.

You will go on your belly

And eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman,

And between your seed and **her seed**.

It will crush your head,

But you will crush **it** *in* the heel.”

Seed of the Woman

- In fallen mankind, both male and female carry the sinful nature.
- But this sinful nature is transmitted to the next generation through the male, not the female. This is built into the Hebrew language.

Male in Strong's Concordance

2145. זָכַר **zâkâr**, *zaw-kawr'*; from 2142; prop. remembered, i.e. a **male** (of man or animals, as being the most noteworthy sex):— × him, male, man (child, -kind).

2142. זָכַר **zâkar**, *zaw-kar'*; a prim. root; prop. to mark (so as to be recognized), i.e. to remember; by impl. to mention; also (as denom. from 2145) to be male:— × burn [incense], × earnestly, be male, (make) mention (of), be mindful, recount, record (-er), **remember**, make to be remembered, bring (call, come, keep, put) to (in) remembrance, × still, think on, × well.

Female in Strong's Concordance

802. **אִשָּׁה** 'ishshâh, ish-shaw'; fem. of 876 or 582; irregular plur. **נָשִׁים** **nâshîym**, naw-sheem'; a woman (used in the same wide sense as 582):—[adulter]ess, each, every, **female**, × many, + none, one, + together, wife, woman. Often unexpressed in English.

5382. **נָשָׁח** **nâshâh**, naw-shaw'; a prim. root; to **forget**; fig., to neglect; causat., to remit, remove:—forget, deprive, exact.

How *will* the Messiah come?

Isa 7:14

- Therefore the LORD* himself will give you a sign. **Behold, a virgin will conceive and bear a son, and she will call him Immanuel.**

• עִמָּנוּ אֵל

Immanu-El

With-us *is* God

How *did* the Messiah Come?

Matthew 1:20

- ²⁰But after he had reflected on these *things*, what should happen but *the* angel of *the* Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary *to be* your wife, for that *which has been* conceived in her is so by holy spirit. ²¹And she shall bear a son, and you will call him **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²Now all this took place in order that that *which was* spoken by the Lord through the prophet should be fulfilled, *where* he says, ²³**“Behold, a virgin will be with child and will bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel, which when translated is ‘God with us.’ ”**

(The Lord) Jesus

- Hebrew יֵשׁוּעַ, Yeshua, a contracted form of יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Yehoshua, AV Joshua, Yahweh/Jehovah saves.
- From Hebrew root יָשַׁע, yasha = to save (in hiphil, הוֹשִׁיעַ), the same root as in Hosanna. N.B. יְשׁוּעָה, Yeshuah, = salvation.

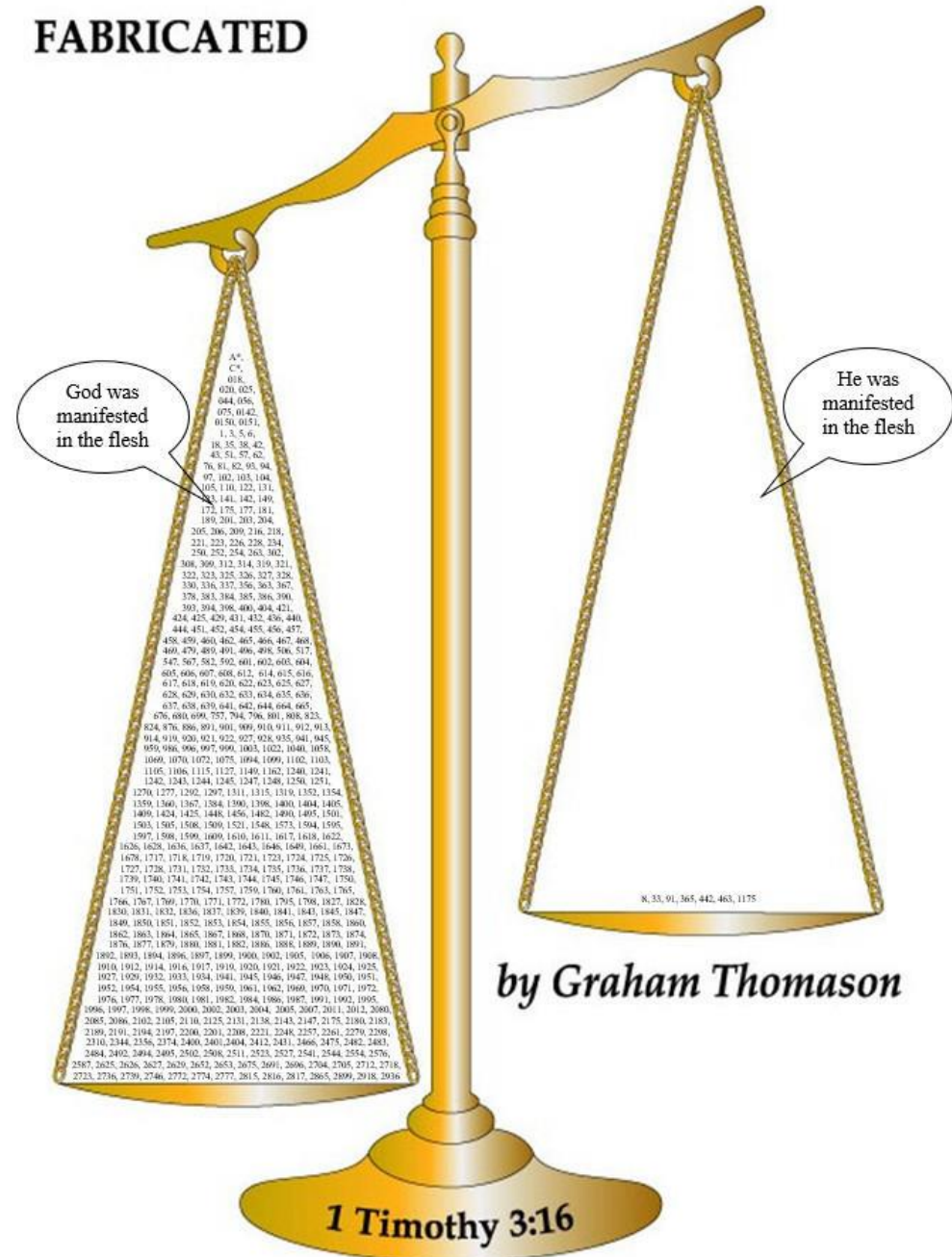
Acts 4:8-12 ⁸Then Peter, filled with holy spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, ⁹if we today are being examined about *the* good work on a sick man, by what *means* he has been cured, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that *it is* **in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene**, whom you crucified, whom God has raised from *the* dead – *that it is* by him – *that* this *man* stands here in your presence, healthy. ¹¹He is **The stone which was rejected by you builders, But which has become the keystone.** ¹²And there is no salvation in *any* other, for **neither is there any other name given among men by which we must be saved.**”

Immanuel – God with Us

Not just a name

1 Tim 3:16
God was
manifested in
the flesh

SCRIPTURE, AUTHENTIC AND
FABRICATED



Promises of the Messiah – When *will* He come?

Dan 9:24-27 (covers the “cutting off” – not the birth)

Seventy year-weeks have been determined concerning your people and concerning your holy city, to put an end to transgression and to seal up sins, and to atone for iniquity, and to bring in age-abiding righteousness, and to seal the vision and prophet, and to anoint the holy of holies.

And know and understand *that* from the issuing of the order to restore and rebuild Jerusalem up to messiah the leader, *there are seven year-weeks and sixty-two year-weeks*, and street and ditch will be built again, but in distressful times.

And after the **sixty-two** year-weeks, **messiah will be cut off**, but not for himself, and the people of **the coming leader** will spoil the city and the sanctuary, and his end *will be* with a flood. And until the end of the war, desolations are determined.

And **he will confirm a covenant with many for one year-week**, and *after* half of the year-week he will put a stop to sacrifice and meal-offering, and he *who* makes desolate *will stand* on the **pinnacle of abominations**, and *this will be* until the conclusion. Then *what is* determined will be poured out on **the desolator.**”

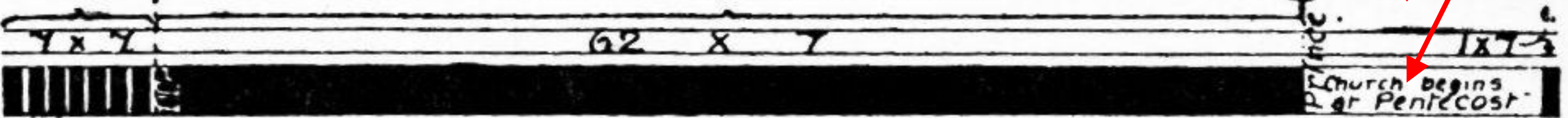
62 + 7 + 1 year-week

Alphabetical Analysis, Dispensational Truth, Vol. 4, p.252

The orthodox stop the prophetic clock, but in a wrongly divided way.

Commandment 454 BC.
Temple rebuilt 405 BC.

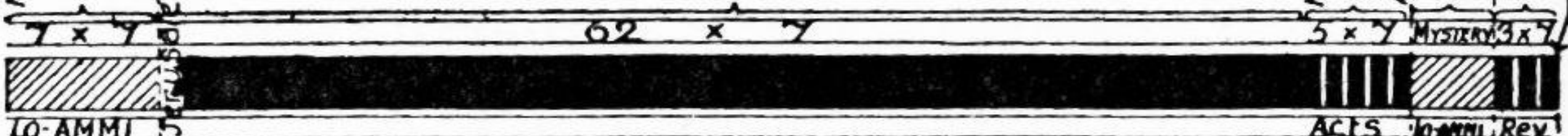
FIG. 1. The Orthodox View



29 A.D.
63 A.D.

There are 7 year-weeks here, but are they part of the 70 (Israel = Ammi = My people)?

FIG. 2. The "Berean" View.



The Seventy Weeks recognize Israel's position.

GGT: Prophetic clock stopped in hatched areas.

When *did* the Messiah come?

(Yes, he has come.) The short answer: on time.

- Both the Orthodox view and the Berean View have the “cutting off” (crucifixion) at 29 AD. This was fulfilled.
- As for the *birth* of the Messiah, we do not directly have the exact year from O.T. prophecy. We can state that Messiah came to the cross “on time”.
- The Christian calendar isn’t a precise guide, and the birth may be 4 or 5 B.C. The Julian calendar (based on 1 leap year every 4 years started in 45 B.C, but it wasn’t aligned to the birth of Christ as an AD dating system until 525 AD (Wikipedia *Anno Domini*). This dating system was devised in 525 by Dionysius Exiguus but was not widely used until the 9th century. The Gregorian (current) calendar took over in the UK in 1752. It has a better system of leap-years. To correct an accumulated shifting of the spring equinox, the Julian calendar day Thursday, 4 October 1582 was followed by the first day of the Gregorian calendar, Friday, 15 October 1582.

When *did* the Messiah come?

Luke 3:23

Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old, beginning his ministry,

If his ministry was for 3 years, then he was

30 in 26 A.D. (30 from Luke 3:23, 26 A.D. a conjecture)

33 in 29 A.D. when crucified (3 years later, a conjecture; 29 AD from Daniel)

5 in 1 A.D. subtracting 28 from each number

4 in 1 B.C. subtracting another 1 (No year 0!)

0 in 5 B.C. subtracting another 4, taking us to his birth

So the Messiah would be born (0 years old) in 5 B.C.

On Christmas day!

When *did* the Messiah come?

Biblical versus non-Biblical sources*

- Luke 2:1-2:7 Now it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole *Roman* world should be registered. ²This registration was the **first** *to take place* when Cyrenius (Quirinius) was governor of Syria. ...
- Wikipedia (Census_of_Quirinius) dates the census as 6 A.D., and criticizes the N.T. as being erroneous, and sees the census as a purely literary device ... to associate Mary and Joseph.
- Luke 2:2 itself strongly suggests that there was a **second** registration some time later. Quite possibly the academics only have a record of the second registration.
- We are used to such attacks. We have already indicated the likelihood of **two** (or more) registrations.
- The attacks also are challenged by many others, including John H. Rhoads [in JETS 54.1, March 2011 65–87], David Armitage (Tyndale House, Article, 21st December 2022).

* This sheet has been modified a little since the address in the Chapel of the Opened Book.

Where *will* the Messiah come?

- Micah 5:2

**“But *as for* you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Although you are small among the thousands of Judah,
From you he *who is* mine will come out,
To be a ruler in Israel,
Yet his goings *are* of age-old time.**

Where *did* the Messiah come?

Luke 2:1-7

¹Now it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole *Roman* world should be registered. ²This registration was the first *to take place* when Cyrenius was governor of Syria. ³So everyone went to be registered – each *one* to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from *the* town of Nazareth, to Judaea, to *the city of David*, which is called **Bethlehem**, because he was of *the* house and *the* paternal lineage of David, ⁵to have himself registered with Mary, the woman betrothed to him, *who* was expecting a child. ⁶And it came to pass when they were there, *that* the days for her to give birth became due, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and she laid him in a feeding-trough, because there was no room for them in the inn.

This sheet has been modified a little since the address in the Chapel of the Opened Book.

Genealogy – The Lineage

The Messiah will come through Abraham

Gen 22:18

And **all the nations of the earth will be blessed through your seed**, because you have obeyed me.

Quoted in Acts 3:25, Gal 3:8.

The Messiah comes through Judah

Gen 49:10

The sceptre will not depart from Judah,
Nor the statute maker from between his legs,
Until Shiloh comes,
And obedience of the nations
Will be to him.

The Messiah comes through King David

Jer 23:5-6

⁵Behold, the days are coming,
Says the LORD,
When **I will raise a righteous branch to David,**
And he will reign *as king,*
And he will act wisely
And administer justice and righteousness in the land.
⁶In his days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely,
And this *is* his name by which he will be called:
The LORD our Righteousness.

The Legal & Royal Genealogy – to Joseph

Matthew 1

1The book of the lineage of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of Abraham. **2Abraham** begot Isaac, and **Isaac** begot Jacob, and **Jacob** begot Judah and his brothers, **3and Judah** begot Perez and Zarah by Tamar, and **Perez** begot Hezron, and **Hezron** begot Ram, **4and Ram** begot Amminadab, and **Amminadab** begot Nahshon, and **Nahshon** begot Salmon, **5and Salmon** begot Boaz by Rahab, and **Boaz** begot Obed by Ruth, and **Obed** begot Jesse, **6and Jesse** begot David the king, and **David the king** begot **Solomon** by Uriah's wife, **7and Solomon** begot Rehoboam, and **Rehoboam** begot Abijah, and **Abijah** begot Asa, **8and Asa** begot Jehoshaphat, and **Jehoshaphat** begot Jehoram, and **Jehoram** begot Uzziah, **9and Uzziah** begot Jotham, and **Jotham** begot Ahaz, and **Ahaz** begot Hezekiah, **10and Hezekiah** begot Manasseh, and **Manasseh** begot Amon, and **Amon** begot Josiah, **11and Josiah** begot Jeconiah and his brothers at the *time of the Babylonian deportation*. **12And after the Babylonian deportation, Jeconiah** begot Shealtiel, and **Shealtiel** begot **Zerubbabel**, **13and Zerubbabel** begot Abihud, and **Abihud** begot Eliakim, and **Eliakim** begot Azzur, **14and Azzur** begot Zadok, and **Zadok** begot Jachin, and **Jachin** begot Elihud, **15and Elihud** begot Eleazar, and **Eleazar** begot Mattan, and **Mattan** begot Jacob, **16and Jacob** begot **Joseph, the husband of Mary by whom Jesus was conceived**, who *is* called Christ. **17So all the generations from Abraham to David amount to fourteen generations, and from David to the Babylonian deportation there are fourteen generations, and from the Babylonian deportation to Christ there are fourteen generations.** **18But the begetting of Jesus Christ was as follows.** Now then, when his mother **Mary** was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, **she was found to be with child, by holy spirit.** **19But Joseph, her husband-to-be, being righteous, and not wishing to make an example of her, wanted to divorce her secretly.** **20But after he had reflected on these things, what should happen but the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife, for that which has been conceived in her is so by holy spirit.** **21And she shall bear a son, and you will call him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kings_of_Israel_and_Judah#/media/File:Genealogy_of_the_kings_of_Israel_and_Judah.svg

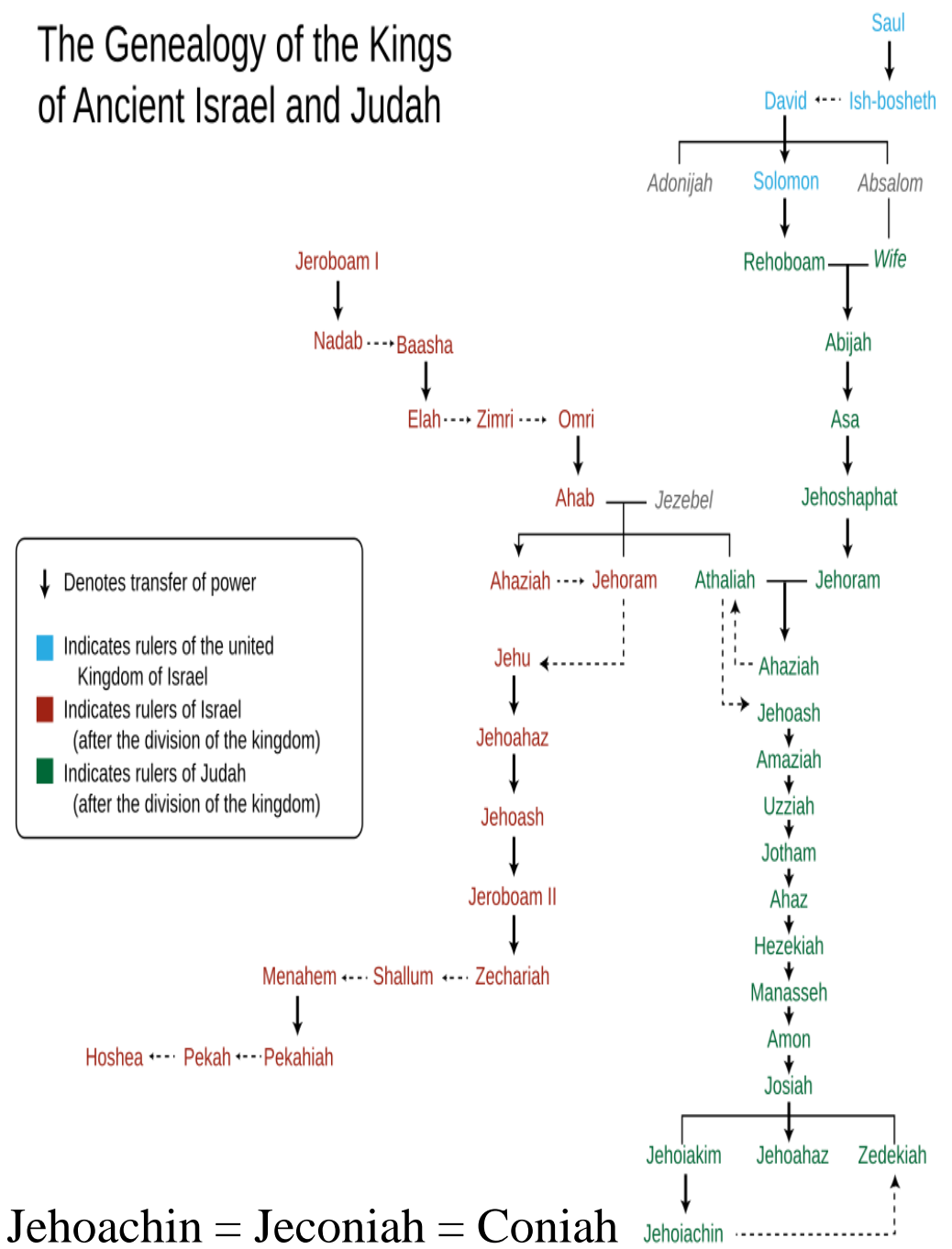
2 Ki 24:6 And Jehoiakim lay with his fathers, and **Jehoiachin** his son reigned in his place.

1 Chr 3:16 And the sons of Jehoiakim were **Jeconiah** his son, and Zedekiah his son.

Jer 22:24 As I live, says the LORD, even if **Coniah** the son of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, were a signet on my right hand, I would still pluck you off it. ...³⁰ This *is what* the LORD says:

«Record this man as childless
 – A man *who* will not prosper in his days –
 For none of his seed will prosper,
Neither as a man sitting on the throne of David,
 Nor a ruler in Judah any more.» ’ ”

The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah



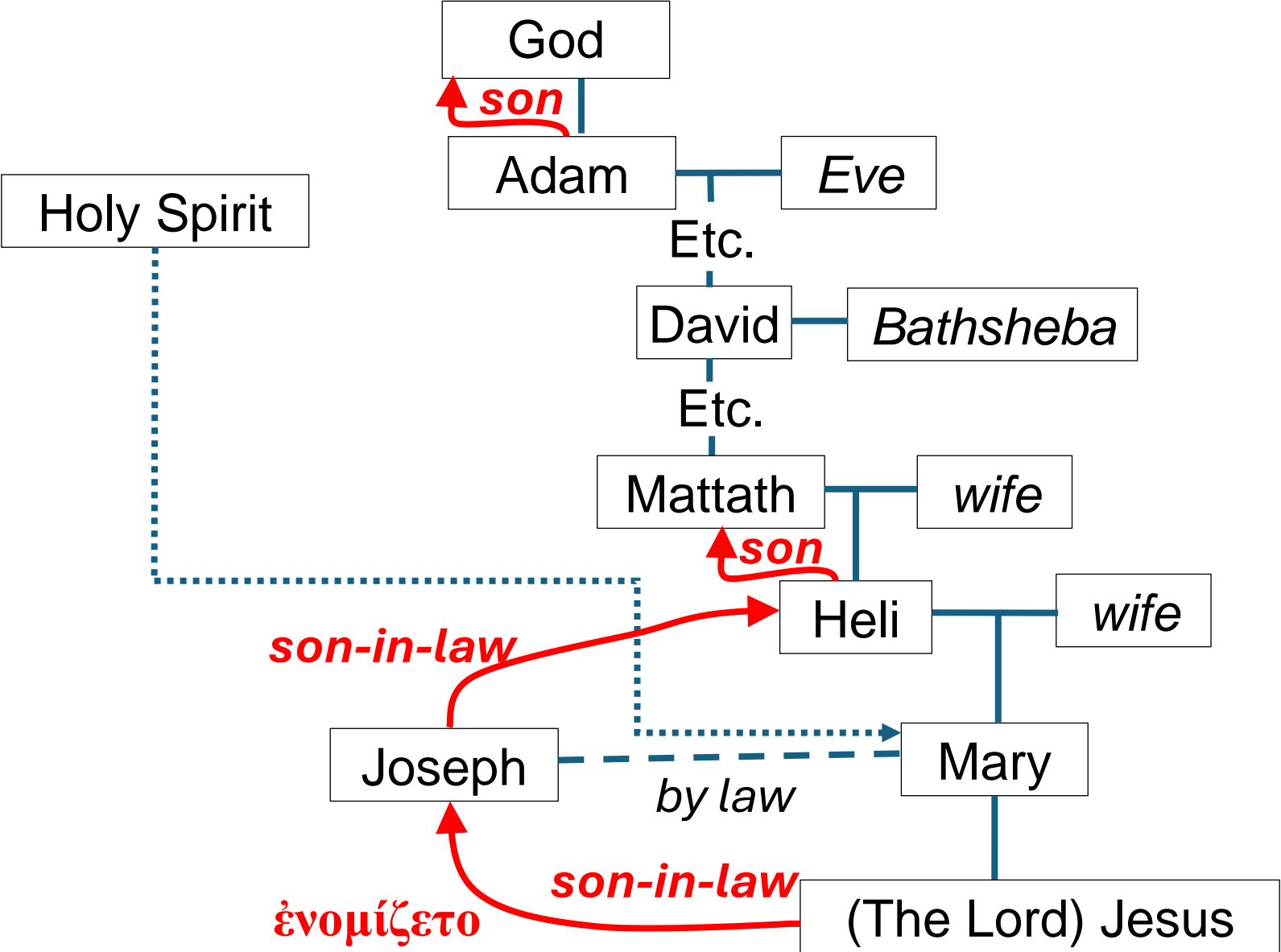
Jehoachin = Jeconiah = Coniah

The Genealogy of “Jesus” via Mary

Luke 3:23-3:38

- ²³ Now Jesus himself was about thirty years *old*, beginning *his ministry*, being, as was reckoned by law, *the son-in-law* of Joseph, *who was the son-in-law* of Heli, ²⁴ *who was the son* of Mattath, *who was the son* of Levi, *who was the son* of Melchi, *who was the son* of Janna, ...

Luke 1:35, 3:23-3:38



Two Genealogies?

- Yes, like everyone's, apart from consanguineous ones.
- Matthew gives the royal line, Luke the physical descent.
- Both are from King David. They are completely separate until they have a common ancestor at David.
- Matthew's Shealtiel, Zerubbabel and Luke's Shealtiel, Zerubbabel are different people with the same name.
 - **Jeconiah** begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel, (Matt 1:12)
 - Zerubbabel, *who was* the son of Shealtiel, *who was* the son of **Neri**, (Luke 3:27)
 - Jeconiah is not Neri. The Shealtiels have different fathers, grandfathers ...
- No need for abstruse explanations (Levitical yibbum יְבוּם marriage)

Christmas is a time for giving

- For God so loved the world, that he **gave** his only-begotten son, so that everyone who believes in him should not be lost, but have age-abiding life. John 3:16
- ... the son of God, who loved me and **gave** himself for me. Galatians 2:20
- ... for you have been saved by grace, through faith, and this *is* not of yourselves; *it is* the **gift** of God, Ephesians 2:8
- Thanks *be* to God for his indescribable **gift**. 2 Corinthians 9:15

These verses are available as an insert to Christmas cards at

https://www.faraboveall.com/010_Tracts/01_Tracts.html



www.FarAboveAll.com



Chapel of the Opened Book, London.

