The two genealogies of Jesus Christ

"Being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli…" (Luke 3 v 23) – in the Greek, 'as was supposed' translates the phrase ὡς ἐνομίζετο (*hos enomizeto*), which comes from the root word νόμος (*nomos*), meaning 'law' or 'custom'. The phrase thus has a legal connotation, and suggests that Jesus was 'legally' (but not actually, or physically) the son of Joseph – an allusion to the virgin birth prophesied in Isaiah 7 v 14. God had announced that his plan for the redemption of mankind would involve the Messiah being brought forth from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49 v 10), and specifically from the line of David (Ruth 4 v 18 to 22; 2 Samuel 7 v 11 to 16). The succession of subsequent kings proved to be, with a few exceptions, a disastrous line. As the succeeding kings of Judah went from bad to worse, we eventually encounter Jechoniah (also known as Coniah and Jehoiachin), upon whom God pronounces a 'blood curse' (see Jeremiah 22 v 24, 25, 30). What makes this so remarkable is that the Messiah was prophesied to come from the royal line of David, and now there was a blood curse on that very royal line!

The New Testament presents *two* genealogies of Jesus. As a Jew focusing on Jesus as the Messiah, Matthew (1 v 1 to 17) begins his genealogy with Abraham, and follows the royal line through David and Solomon, the *first* surviving son of Bathsheba, and on to Joseph, the *legal* father of Jesus. But Luke, as a doctor focusing on Jesus as the Son of Man, takes his genealogy from Adam, the first man. Then from Abraham to David the two genealogies are identical. However, when Luke gets to David, he 'sidesteps' the cursed line, and rather than going through Solomon, follows the line from Nathan, the *second* surviving son of Bathsheba, and takes his genealogy directly through to Mary, identifying Joseph as the *son-in-law* of Heli, Mary's father. The *virgin birth* thus has the effect of 'bypassing' the blood curse on the descendants of Jechoniah. See the chart of the two genealogies overleaf…

Luke 3 v 23: [23] Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli…

Isaiah 7 v 14: [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Genesis 49 v 10: The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet…

Ruth 4 v 18 to 22: [18] Now these are the generations of Perez: Perez fathered Hezron, [19] Hezron fathered Ram, Ram fathered Amminadab, [20] Amminadab fathered Nahshon, Nahshon fathered Salmon, [21] Salmon fathered Boaz, Boaz fathered Obed, [22] Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse fathered David.

2 Samuel 7 v 11 to 16: [11] from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. [12] When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. [14] I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, [15] but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. [16] And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

Jeremiah 22 v 24, 25, 30: [24] "As I live, declares the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you off [25] and give you into the hand of those who seek your life…

Thus says the LORD:
"Write this man down as childless,
    a man who shall not succeed in his days,
for none of his offspring shall succeed
    in sitting on the throne of David
    and ruling again in Judah."

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Luke	Matthew & Luke	Matthew	Luke
Adam		*Solomon*	*Nathan*
Seth		Rehoboam	Mattatha
Enos		Abijah	Menna
Cainan		Asaph	Melea
Mahalaleel		Jehoshaphat	Eliakim
Jared		Joram	Jonam
Enoch		(Ahaziah)	Joseph
Methuselah		(Joash)	Judah
Lamech		(Amaziah)	Simeon
Noah		Uzziah	Levi
Shem		Jotham	Matthat
Arphaxad		Ahaz	Jorim
Cainan		Hezekiah	Eliezer
Shelah		Manasseh	Joshua
Eber		Amos	Er
Peleg		Josiah	Elmadam
Reu		Jehoiakim	Cosam
Serug		Jehoiachin (*Jechoniah*)	Addi
Nahor		Shealtiel	Melchi
Terah		Zerubbabel	Neri
	Abraham	Abiud	Shealtiel
	Isaac	Eliakim	Zerubbabel
	Jacob	Azor	Rhesa
	Judah	Zadok	Joanan
	Perez	Achim	Joda
	Hezron	Eliud	Josech
	Ram (Admin, Arni)	Eleazar	Semein
	Amminadab	Matthan	Matthathias
	Nahshon	Jacob	Maath
	Salmon (Sala)	*Joseph*	Nagge
	Boaz		Esli
	Obed		Naum
	Jesse		Amos
	David		Mattathias
			Joseph
			Janna
			Melchi
			Levi
			Matthat
			Heli
			(*Mary*)