

## The Son of David

‘Jesus Christ, **the Son of David**, the Son of Abraham.’ Matthew 1:1, NKJV

### ‘Today in the Town of David a Saviour Has Been Born’

Suddenly an angel gave some wonderful good news to some shepherds in a Bethlehem field concerning Jesus. As we know, the shepherds were watching over their flocks, and it’s interesting to consider that these flocks were probably grazing in the same fields as David’s sheep once did when he was a shepherd in the same area.

‘And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born** to you; he is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**.”’ Lk. 2:8-11, NIVUK



- These three words: ‘Saviour’, ‘Messiah’ and ‘Lord’ define and contain the ‘good news’ who is Jesus. Such good news is a cause of ‘great joy’ for ‘all people’.



“This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests”. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about”. So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.’ Luke 2:12-20, NIVUK

#### Notes:

- Some translations of Luke 2:9 include the word *lo* or *behold* to draw attention to the wondrous events which follow.
- The heavenly authentications of who Jesus is are mirrored later in this same chapter by earthly authentications by Simeon and Anna Luke 2:25-38. The picture on the right is of Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus to Simeon at the Temple.
- After hearing from the angel, not surprisingly, the shepherds departed hastily from the fields. The shepherd’s resolve and response to the messages are mentioned in verses 15-16. They quickly spread the word about what they had experienced (verses 17-18) and all who heard them were understandably ‘amazed’. The shepherds returned to the fields glorifying and praising God (verse 20).



See if you can memorise some, or all, of these words: ‘Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’ Luke 2:11, NIVUK

## ‘God Will Give Him the Throne of His Father David’

‘Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the **house of David**. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord **God will give Him the throne of His father David**. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”’ Luke 1:26-33, NKJV



*The Anxiety of Joseph by James Tissot*

## ‘Joseph, Son of David’

‘Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “**Joseph, son of David**, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.’ Matthew 1:18-25, NKJV



means ‘House of Bread’. In the time of Jesus its population is reckoned to have been about 300, it is now over 25,000.

## ‘The Town of David’

Jesus could legitimately be called a ‘Son of David’ because David was one of His ancestors. After David had killed Goliath, King Saul asked David who he was. David answered: ‘the son of your servant Jesse the Bethlehemite’ 1 Samuel 17:58, NKJV. So David’s home was in Bethlehem and nearly 1,000 years later Bethlehem was known as the ‘**town of David**’

Luke 2:4, NIVUK. The photograph on the left is captioned: ‘Entry of pilgrims into Bethlehem at Christmas time’. It was taken in 1890. Bethlehem



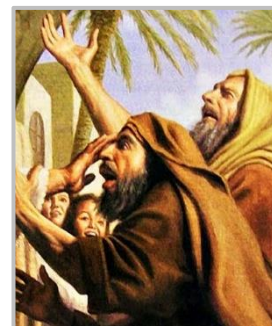
## ‘O Lord, Son of David’

‘Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, “Have mercy on me, **O Lord, Son of David!** My daughter is severely demon-possessed”. But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, “Send her away, for she cries out after us”. But He answered and said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”. Then she came and worshipped Him, saying, “Lord, help me!” But He answered and said, “It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs”. And she said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table”. Then Jesus answered and said to her, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire”. And her daughter was healed from that very hour.’ Matthew 15:21-28, NKJV



## ‘Have Mercy On Us, O Lord, Son of David’

‘Now as they went out of Jericho, a great multitude followed Him. And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, “**Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!**” Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!” So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Lord, that our eyes may be opened”. So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.’ Matthew 20:29-34, NKJV



## ‘Maybe He Is the Promised Son of David?’

‘Then some people brought a man to Jesus. This man was blind and could not talk, because he had a demon inside him. Jesus healed the man, and he could talk and see. All the people were amazed at what Jesus did. They said, “**Maybe he is the promised Son of David?**”’ [a] Matthew 12:22-23, ERV

Footnote:

[a] ‘This is the third of nine occurrences of this Messianic title “Son of David” in the book of Matthew.’ Companion Bible



## ‘Son of David’ – to do with Genealogy, but also A Messianic Title

The title ‘**Son of David**’ is more than a statement of physical genealogy. It is also a Messianic title. When some people referred to Jesus as the ‘**Son of David**’, they meant that they believed He was the long-awaited Messiah – the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies. Jesus was addressed ‘**Son of David**’ by people who, by faith, were seeking mercy or healing. For example, the Canaanite woman from the Tyre and Sidon region whose daughter was being tormented by a demon Matthew 15:22 and the two blind men sitting by the Jericho road Matthew 20:30-31. The titles of honour they gave Him declared their faith in Him. Calling Him ‘Lord’ expressed their sense of His deity and power and calling Him the ‘**Son of David**’ expressed their faith that He was the Messiah.



King David  
(Painted in 1622)

## Davidic Covenant

After Israel had become established in the promised land, God revealed the next stage in directing his covenant purposes towards their ultimate goal. The promised Offspring of Abraham through whom God would send his salvation to the world was Jesus. God prepared Israel to produce the Messiah by choosing from the nation one person, King David, and promising that his dynasty would be the channel through which the Messiah would come (1 Chronicles 17:4-14). God gave David this promise by means of a covenant that followed on from his earlier covenants, namely those with Abraham and with the nation Israel. The Abrahamic covenant led to the Sinaitic covenant, which in turn led to the Davidic covenant, which led finally to Jesus Christ who was the fulfilment of all of God’s covenant purposes.

A summary of the Davidic covenant can be found in Psalm 132: ‘**David** is your chosen one, so don’t reject him. You made a **solemn promise to David**, when you said, “I, the LORD, promise that someone in your family will always be king. If they keep our agreement and follow my teachings, then someone in your family will rule forever.”’ Psalm 132:10-12, CEV. Here the promise is that David’s descendants would always sit on Israel’s throne. This promise had two parts. The first was that David’s descendants would perpetually rule over Israel as long as they followed God. Secondly, David’s royal line would never end. The first part was conditional; as long as the Kings kept the agreement and followed God’s teachings their dynasty continued. The second part of the promise was unconditional. It was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, a descendent of David, who reigns for ever. The Davidic Covenant is referred to in such scriptures as: 2 Samuel 7:8-29; 23:5 and Psalm 89:3. The Davidic covenant was also renewed by the angel Gabriel to Mary.

Based on the *Bridgeway Bible Dictionary*, *Unger’s Bible Handbook* and *The Life Application Bible*



## David Wrote: ‘The Lord Said to My Lord’

The Pharisees knew what the people meant when they called Jesus the ‘**Son of David**’. But, unlike those who cried out in faith, the Pharisees were so blinded by their own pride that they rejected what the blind beggars in Jericho understood – that here was the Messiah the Pharisees had supposedly been waiting for.

Having received several questions from His critics, Jesus now turned the tables and asked the Pharisees some questions. He wanted them to explain what the Scriptures taught about the Messiah. Many Pharisees thought of the Messiah merely as a human descendant of David. Jesus’ questions and teaching could help them and the crowd to understand who He really was. Jesus asked them: ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?’ *Matthew 22:42, NKJV*. This was perhaps the most familiar subject in their theology, that of the descent of the Messiah. The Pharisees gave a standard answer based on Old Testament passages. They said He was ‘**the Son of David**’ *Matthew 22:42, NKJV*. However, this was not the full answer. Jesus’ point in asking the question was that the Messiah is much more than the physical descendent of David.

(Jesus had previously asked His disciples a similar question about His true identity. Peter, for the disciples, had given the correct full answer: ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’ *Matthew 16:16, NKJV*.)

Jesus pointed out that the Pharisees’ answer contained a problem. To illustrate the problem Jesus quoted from one of David’s Psalms: ‘The LORD [Father] says to my Lord [the Messiah, His Son]’ *Psalms 110:1, Amp*. In this verse David calls the Messiah ‘my Lord’. So, based on this passage of scripture Jesus asked them another question: ‘If **David** then calls Him “Lord”, how is He his Son?’ *Matthew 22:45, NKJV*. They could not answer. Jesus’ point was that the Messiah was not just the human descendent of David, but He was also the divine Son of God. Paul says this plainly in Romans 1:3 concerning Jesus ‘who was born of **the seed of David** according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God’. Also, as Jesus says in Revelation 22:16, ‘I am the **Root and the Offspring of David**’. That is, He, the Messiah, is both the Creator of David and the Descendant of David. Jesus did not design to ensnare the Pharisees, as they did Him, but to instruct them in a truth they were loath to believe – that He, is the Messiah, the Son of God.

### Did You Know?

Psalms 110:1 is quoted more in the New Testament than any other Old Testament verse.



## ‘Hosanna to the Son of David’

‘So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on



the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “**Hosanna to the Son of David!** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!” And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”’ *Matthew 21:6-11, NKJV*

‘Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, “**Hosanna to the Son of David!**” they were indignant and said to Him, “Do You hear what these are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’ ”’ *Matthew 21:14-16, NKJV*

## ‘A Descendent of David’

Matthew chapter 1 gives the genealogical proof that Jesus, the Son of David, in His humanity, was a direct descendant of Abraham and David through Joseph, Jesus’ legal father. The genealogy in Luke chapter 3 traces Jesus’ lineage through His mother Mary to David. Therefore, Jesus is a descendant of David through Joseph and by blood through Mary. As Paul writes: ‘The Gospel is centred in God’s Son, **a descendant of David** by human genealogy.’ *Romans 1:3, Phillips*

# ‘What Do You Think About the Christ? Whose Son Is He?’

These were questions Jesus asked the Pharisees, they answered the **‘Son of David’** Matthew 22:42, NKJV

Below are various statements others expressed about who they thought Jesus was:

‘King of the Jews’ Wise men from the East. Matt. 2:2  
 ‘Mightier than I’. John the Baptist. Matt. 3:11  
 ‘Son of God’. Demons. Matt. 8:29  
 ‘A blasphemer’. Certain Scribes. Matt. 9:3  
**‘Son of David’**. Two blind men. Matt. 9:27  
 ‘The carpenter’s Son’. His fellow countrymen. Matt. 13:55  
 ‘John the Baptist’. Herod and others. Matt. 14:2, 16:14  
 ‘The Son of God’. They that were in the ship. Matt. 14:33  
**‘Son of David’**. A woman of Canaan. Matt. 15:22  
 ‘Elijah’ or ‘Jeremiah’. Some people. Matt. 16:14  
 ‘One of the Prophets’. Other people. Matt. 16:14  
 ‘The Christ, the Son of the living God’. Peter. Matt. 16:16  
 ‘Good Master’. A certain ruler. Matt. 19:16  
 ‘The Prophet of Nazareth’. The multitude. Matt. 21:11  
 ‘The Carpenter, the Son of Mary’. Many hearing Him.

Mark 6:3

‘Your Salvation, a Light, the Glory’. Simeon. Luke 2:30, 32  
 ‘Joseph’s Son’. All in the synagogue. Luke 4:22  
 ‘A great Prophet’. All witnessing the raising of the widow’s son. Luke 7:16  
 ‘A righteous Man’. The Roman Centurion. Luke 23:47  
 ‘A Prophet mighty in deed and word’. The two going to Emmaus. Luke 24:19  
 ‘The Lamb of God’. John the Baptist. John 1:29  
 ‘The Messiah’. Andrew. John 1:41  
 ‘The Son of God, the King of Israel’. Nathanael. John 1:49  
 ‘A Prophet’. A woman of Samaria. John 4:19  
 ‘Jesus the Son of Joseph’. The Jews. John 6:42  
 ‘A Samaritan and having a demon’. The Jews. John 8:48  
 ‘A Prophet’. The blind man. John 9:17  
 ‘The Christ, the Son of God’. Martha. John 11:27  
 ‘The King of Israel’. A great multitude. John 12:13

The question: Whose Son is He? is definitively answered by God the Father in Matthew 17:5, NKJV:

‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’

## Word Search

SON	DAVID
TOWN	BETHLEHEM
SAVIOUR	SHEPHERDS
MESSIAH	COVENANT
LORD	SEED
ANGEL	HOSANNA
MANGER	DESCENDENT
MARY	PHARISEES
JOSEPH	PROPHET
SIMEON	HEAVENLY
ANNA	HOST
THRONE	GREAT
PSALM	JOY
ROOT	OFFSPRING

J	O	S	E	E	S	I	R	A	H	P	J	O	A	J
O	G	O	T	O	R	O	J	O	N	T	O	O	N	O
T	N	M	H	J	O	U	S	P	H	N	O	T	N	S
N	I	X	R	O	O	A	O	O	D	P	A	O	A	E
A	R	T	O	W	N	S	M	I	L	Q	E	S	R	P
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O	O	O	I	O	R	N	O	T	O	Y	H	O	S	M
C	S	A	J	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	A	O
T	H	O	O	V	H	H	O	C	O	J	O	N	P	J
H	A	S	A	O	P	O	S	J	S	O	G	S	O	F
R	O	E	J	O	E	H	O	S	P	E	A	M	S	N
R	H	O	R	O	H	Y	M	O	R	L	D	O	J	O
O	T	P	Q	G	S	H	O	S	M	A	N	N	E	J

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Bible abbreviations:

*Amp.*: Amplified Bible. *CEV*: Contemporary English Version. *NIVUK*: New International Version, United Kingdom. *NKJV*: New King James Version. *Phillips*: J.B. Phillips New Testament.

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