Jesus: the Son of David

In Luke 1:32, angel Gabriel, announcing to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, said about Him that “the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David”. Also in the New Testament we many time see Jesus called Son of David. Below are some of these references from the gospel of Matthew:

Matthew 9:27
“When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!"

Matthew 12:23
“And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

Matthew 15:22
“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."

Matthew 20:30
“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!"
Matthew 21:9
“Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

What the angel told Mary – i.e. that God would give to Jesus the throne of his father David – meant two things:

1. that Jesus was a descendant of David i.e. David was his father.
2. that He had legal rights over David's throne i.e. that legally speaking he was the successor of David’s throne.

That Jesus satisfied both of these requirements is made clear by the two genealogies of Jesus that are given in Matthew 1:1-17 and in Luke 3:23-38. The first of these genealogies refers to the supposed by the society father of Jesus, Joseph, and it shows that he came directly from the regal line of the king David. That’s why, from a legal point of view, Jesus had legal rights over the throne of David. However, this was enough. He also needed to be a direct descendant of David. And this He was through Mary, his mother. Indeed, her genealogy that is given in Luke 3:23-38 shows that she was a direct descendant of David. Therefore, both legally and physically, Jesus was of the house of David with direct rights over David's throne.

These were of course not accidental. In contrast, they were prerequisites for the Messiah, since according to the Old Testament prophecies the promised Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham (see Genesis 21:12 and Galatians
3:16) and also of David (see Psalms 132:11 and Acts 2:29-30). And Jesus was both. Matthew 1:1 expresses this truth very directly:

**Matthew 1:1**

".......Jesus Christ, THE SON OF DAVID, THE SON OF ABRAHAM"

Therefore the genealogies of Jesus Christ are not a historical enumeration but a proof that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, the Promised One, the Son of David and the Son of Abraham. In Him God fulfilled not only His promise to Abraham and to David (Genesis 21:12, Psalm 132:11) but also His promise to the human race (Genesis 3:15), which after the fall waited for the Christ to rectify the situation the fall created.

Anastasios Kioulachoglou

Related Articles: