

Endless Genealogies And Endtime Deception : Part 1

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What you are about to read is what I personally refer to as a "spur-of-the-moment article". Even twenty-four hours ago, I had no idea that I would be writing it. It's not something that I had planned to do. I had in fact begun to write a new article about an entirely different subject; but, as seems to often occur with my writing, I veered off on a tangent, and I suddenly realized that an entirely different article was in the making. So, as I often do, I removed the portion that was a tangent, and I created a new text file.

As is the case with the majority of my work, this series is the result of moment-by-moment inspiration. In other words, I just sit here and begin to type as the words and verses occur to me. Unlike most secular writers, I never create an outline beforehand in which I neatly lay out the points that I wish to discuss in an article. I simply write, and I trust that the Lord will simply fill in the gaps with what He wants to be said. In short, in large part, my articles truly are a work of faith, because I honestly never know where they are going to lead.

Usually, I will write an article or series one section at a time, simply because my eyes and my body become too tired to carry on. I'm not exactly a young man anymore. However, I've often found that these breaks -- which can be anywhere from a few hours, to days, weeks, and sometimes longer -- are of the Lord's doing; because it is during these times that I often receive new thoughts, perspectives, inspirations and verses to add to the article.

Writing new articles is not always accomplished in a linear fashion either. In other words, sometimes I get new ideas or verses to add to the end of the article, even before I have

completed the beginning or the middle of the same. I simply type things as they come to me, and trust that the Lord will show me how to piece it altogether by the time I am done. I suppose that is why I am the WordWeaver. It is a God-given talent. Once the main body of an article is completed, I'll go back and polish it up a bit, by editing, spell-checking, perhaps by adding more verses to substantiate a particular point, etc.

One thing which I have learned to avoid doing, is finalizing an article when I am tired; because if I am too hasty, I may end up publishing an article which still contains typos, or perhaps areas where thoughts can be more clearly expressed.

In fact, my experience over the years has taught me that just because I think that an article is done, does not necessarily mean that it really is done. I have found that if I sit on an article for a few days after I have finalized it, sometimes I will still receive new inspirations to add to it. While some people may find my writing technique a bit unorthodox, in my view, it's the best way for a Christian writer to write. Why? Because it allows one to remain open to the inspiration of God's Spirit, and that is what is most important, is it not?

Anyway, I am not sure why I got into all of that, but perhaps it will be of interest to some of you. The main point that I wish to make, is that a day ago, I had no idea that I would be writing a series which centers around two verses where genealogies are very briefly mentioned. So let us continue.

In the world today, there are many people who are interested in discovering their genealogical heritage. This revitalized interest in discovering one's bloodlines seems to have been inspired in part by an American television series that aired a number of years ago called "Roots". With the advent of the computer age, this quest for knowledge of our family trees and past relatives has become all the more easier. There are now many online genealogical sites and services, as well as a plethora of genealogical computer software for the avid family tree hunter.

Keeping genealogical records of bloodlines and family trees is nothing new, however. Even the Bible clearly reveals that genealogical records have been kept since ancient times, some six thousand years ago. From Genesis, to the Book of Numbers, to the New Testament Gospels, we find many such family trees. Of course, from a Christian perspective, the most important genealogical record is the following one:

"The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren; And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram; And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon; And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias; And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa; And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias; And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias; And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias; And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon: And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel

begat Zorobabel; And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor; And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud; And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob; And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ."

Matthew 1:1-16, KJV

Considering how much emphasis humans have placed on keeping genealogical records, I find it rather interesting that in reading the Apostle Paul's first Epistle to Timothy, Paul specifically says in the opening chapter "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies". Following are the full verses for your consideration:

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do."

1 Timothy 1:3-4, KJV

As you can see, Paul goes to the exact opposite extreme of what one might expect from a Pharisee who was raised in a strict Jewish environment, where maintaining genealogical records was viewed with great importance. Exactly why Paul chose to include the phrase "endless genealogies" in the previous verses is not made clear. However, apparently this particular issue was so important to Paul, and the problem with certain brethren debating about "endless genealogies" so widespread, that in his Epistle to Titus, Paul mentions it again, as we see by the following verse:

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

Titus 3:9, KJV

If we are all -- Jew and Gentile alike -- one in Christ as Paul amply taught, then why would it be necessary for Paul to even have to bring this to the attention of the brethren? What would cause some of the brethren to become involved in genealogical debates? What purpose could it possibly serve?

As I contemplated those two verses, a very interesting idea occurred to me, which I would like for you to consider. We all know that in a physical sense, Jesus was descended from the lineage of King David, and thus was repeatedly referred to as "the son of David". In fact, we know from the Bible that the Messiah was prophesied to be a descendant of David. For example, consider the prophetic nature of the following verses. Please note that these verses were written hundreds of years after the life of the original King David, so they must be referring to someone else; that is, to Jesus, who is the "son of David", and our one true, eternal Shepherd, Prince of Peace, and King of Kings:

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Jeremiah 23:5-6, KJV

"And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed

them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it."

Ezekiel 34:23-24, KJV

"And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever."

Ezekiel 37:24-25, KJV

"For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days."

Hosea 3:4-5, KJV

"In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:"

Amos 9:11, KJV

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Isaiah 9:6-7, KJV

"Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house."

Isaiah 42:1-7, KJV

All of the previous verses are but a small sample of the many Messianic Prophecies concerning Jesus Christ, that are found in the Old Testament. This is precisely why the unbelieving Jews are without excuse. Please note that those final verses from the Book of Isaiah were quoted by Jesus in Luke chapter four, when He began His public ministry in Nazareth. Matthew likewise quoted the same verses in his Gospel, as we see by

the following verses:

"And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

Luke 4:16-19, KJV

"Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust."

Matthew 12:18-21, KJV

Finally, we have these verses that are found in the Book of Revelation, where Jesus Himself tells us that He is the root and offspring of King David:

"And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

Revelation 5:5, KJV

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

Revelation 22:16, KJV

We know from reading the four Gospels, as well as the Book of Acts, the Epistles, and the Book of Revelation, that in spite of everything that Jesus said and did, which revealed His Divine Nature and Origin, the unbelieving Jews did not accept Christ as the promised Messiah, even though He was clearly the son -- or descendant -- of King David.

Therefore, being as these unbelieving Jews did not accept Jesus as the promised Messiah, it is only natural that they would very much want to keep alive the doctrine concerning the genealogy of the Messiah, so that they would be able to recognize their "messiah" when he eventually arrived on the Earth. The complicity of these unbelieving Jews in the plot to keep alive the unfruitful discussion of genealogies seems to be hinted at by Paul when he includes the phrase "strivings about the law" in that verse to Titus. If there is one thing we know from reading the Gospels, it is that the unbelieving Jews were constantly arguing with Jesus about the law, meaning the Mosaic Law.

But do you understand where I am going with this thought? If you take the time to read such articles as part two of "The Kings Of The North And The South", you will come to realize that the ancient religion of the Pharisees -- or Pharisaism -- is still very much alive in our modern times. However, today it takes the form of modern Judaism, as practiced by Orthodox Jews.

One of the core doctrines of modern Orthodox Judaism, is the belief in the soon-expected arrival of their "messiah", who they refer to as "Mashiach", or "Moshiach ben David", which means "Messiah, son of David". Without repeating everything that I have already stated in "The Kings Of The North And The South", let me just say this: According to the beliefs of the Orthodox Jews, as his title implies, Moshiach ben David must be a direct descendant of the bloodline of King David. That could very well be one of the reasons why even in Paul's day, the unbelieving Jews were striving to keep alive the arguments concerning Jewish genealogies. They had to keep track of who was descended from who, so they would be able to recognize and verify the identity of Moshiach if and when he arrived on the scene, which he may possibly do one of these days soon. Please keep reading.

That these unbelieving Jews would strive to keep alive the arguments concerning Jewish genealogies should really come as no surprise to us. Not only did these same incredulous Jews argue with Jesus concerning the Law, but as I explain in other articles, they likewise strived to keep alive the doctrine concerning the necessity of circumcision, which also contributed to schisms developing amongst the early Christian Disciples. The issue of circumcision was one of the key motivations behind the Apostle Paul writing his Epistles to the Romans and the Galatians, where he heavily expounds upon the issue of Grace versus Law, meaning the Mosaic Law. In one bold statement, Paul declared:

"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

Romans 2:28-29, KJV

One of the primary reasons why circumcision remains very important to the Jews, is because they continue to believe that, based upon the promise given to Abraham, circumcision identifies all Jews as God's Elect, and Chosen People, who are separate from the unclean Gentile nations of the world. Circumcision is very much a matter of national identity to the Jew. Furthermore, it gives Jews an air of superiority, at least so they continue to believe, over Gentiles, and this is obviously very important to them. It is truly sad indeed that even today, due to their pride, a majority of Jews still fail to recognize this Divine Truth, which was so eloquently expressed by the Apostle Paul:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Galatians 3:28-29, KJV

Allow me to emphasize that point: If you are Christ's, only then are you truly Abraham's seed. Thus, because they reject the profound truths of Romans 2:28-29 and Galatians 3:28-29, most Jews continue to believe that they are the Children of Abraham, heirs of the promise, God's Elect, and the Chosen People, when they are no such thing. As the Apostle Paul wrote in that very same chapter:

"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."

Galatians 3:7, KJV

In other words, most flesh Jews are not "of faith". That is to say, they have not placed their faith in Jesus Christ as their only means of Salvation. Thus, as Jesus said of them in the Gospel of John:

"I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham,Äôs children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God,Äôs words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

John 8:38-47, KJV

As I was sitting here re-reading the last few paragraphs, a profound truth was impressed upon me which I don't believe I have ever considered before. In a word, it is this: Sin never grows old. Some people, even Christians, may think that these events and truths no longer matter, because they happened so long ago. However, to God, who dwells in the Eternal Now, the truth remains the truth, and sin remains sin. The passage of time does not change the truth; neither does it change sin, or the consequences of sin. As we are told in the Scriptures:

"LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."
Psalm 119:89, KJV

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."
Matthew 5:18, KJV

To express this point another way, most modern Jews continue to remain guilty of the very same sin of unbelief, as their ancient forefathers of almost two thousand years ago. What God viewed as sin millennia ago, He continues to view as sin today, because sin does not grow old. Furthermore, God's Laws require no updates, contrary to what certain modern, liberal governments and individuals seem to think.

While the Bible indeed teaches us that "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" -- Jeremiah 31:34 -- and "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" -- Isaiah 1:18 -- this forgiveness on God's part is totally contingent upon our repentance and our belief in Christ. If we do not repent, and accept Christ, there can be no forgiveness. The sins of the Jews do not just magically disappear, simply because two thousand years have transpired. Sin does not grow old. In similar fashion, God's punishment for sin and unbelief does not grow old either. He does not

just forget, or change His Rules in the middle of the game. If the Jews really desire to be the Children of Abraham, it behooves them to repent of their unbelief, and to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as God's one and only Messiah today.

While we have taken a slight detour from our main topic of discussion, let us return now to the subject of genealogical records, and why they may be important to the Jews, insofar as possible future events in the Middle East are concerned.

As I explain in "Who Is Hindering The Antichrist", if a third and final Jewish Temple is soon to be built on Mount Moriah in East Jerusalem, as most Orthodox Jews and some Christians believe, it is my current belief that the satanic deceiver who will perform signs and lying wonders in order to convince the foolish Jews of his authenticity, and who will thus be allowed to sit in the newly-constructed temple, and declare himself "God", will be this very same Moshiach ben David. We read about these events in the following verses that can be found in Paul's second Epistle to the Thessalonians:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"

2 Thessalonians 2:3-11, KJV

If this is the case, if Moshiach ben David reveals himself to the world in the not-too-distant future as so many people expect him to do, then based upon everything that I've read concerning this subject, this deceiver will first have to pass the test, by proving that he is a direct descendant of King David, which again demonstrates why the unbelieving Jews would retain a keen interest in genealogical records, even in Paul's day.

Allow me to also add -- as I have stated before -- that some of the preparations for these events have been ongoing for a number of years now. In addition to the anticipated upcoming construction of the final Temple itself, which appears to be spearheaded by such groups as the Temple Mount Faithful, the Orthodox Jews have also been very busy with the construction of the sacrificial altar, as well as the various utensils which will be used for the Temple services. Furthermore, the priestly garments of the "kohen" are also in the process of being fabricated according to Biblical specifications.

Here again is emphasized the importance of keeping track of genealogical records by these Orthodox Jews. According to their beliefs, which are based on events which are found in the Old Testament, the kohen, that is, the priests who are

currently being trained to serve in the final temple, must be verified descendants of Moses and Aaron, and of the tribe of Levi. How sad that all of these unbelieving Jews fail so miserably to recognize that our one true, final High Priest, Jesus Christ, has already come to the Earth, and returned to His Heavenly Abode. How sad that they refuse to recognize that the Blood of Jesus Christ was shed once, and only once, for the sins of all men, and that continuing blood sacrifices are no longer required by God. As we are plainly told in the New Testament Scriptures:

"Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin ONCE: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God."

Romans 6:9-10, KJV

"But this man, [Jesus] because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did ONCE, when he offered up himself."

Hebrews 7:24-27, KJV

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in ONCE into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Hebrews 9:11-12, KJV

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now ONCE in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself . . . So Christ was ONCE offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Hebrews 9:24-26, 28 KJV

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ONCE for all."

Hebrews 10:10, KJV

"For Christ also hath ONCE suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"

1 Peter 3:18, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Endless Genealogies And Endtime Deception : Part 2

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Dating Of New Testament, Anglican Bishop John A. T. Robinson, Questions Concerning Destruction Of Jerusalem And The Temple, Jesus' Prophecy Concerning The Temple, Paul's Pre-Destruction Perspective In 2 Thessalonians 2, William F. Albright's Views, John W. Wenham, Augustinian Hypothesis, The Synoptic Gospels, Paul's Paradise Account In 2 Corinthians 12, Apostle John Was Caught Up Into Paradise, Unspeakable Words No Man Can Utter, Why Knowing When The New Testament Was Written Is Important, A Profound Change In Our Understanding Of Endtime Prophecy?, The 144,000 Sealed Servants Of God Of The Tribes Of Israel, Paul's 2 Thessalonians 2 Admonition: That Day Shall Not Come, Genealogies And 144,000, Unbelieving Jews And False Messiah, Our Citizenship In Heaven, Members Of God's Royal Household, The Apostle Paul's Aversion To Divisive Genealogical Debate, Paul's Wish For Oneness & Spiritual Unity In Body Of Christ, The Legalistic, Argumentative, Divisive Scribes & Pharisees, Jesus Posed A Threat To Established Jewish Religious Order, High Priest Caiaphas And The Jews Conspire To Murder Jesus, Jewish Elders Pressured Pilate To Murder Jesus By Mob Rule, Jerusalem & Temple Destroyed - 70 AD By Roman General Titus

There is another interesting possibility which has occurred to me, which might help to explain why, even in Paul's time, certain Christian Disciples debated about genealogies. It is commonly believed by many modern Christians that the Book of Revelation was written by the Apostle John, or maybe by some other individual named John -- depending on who you want to believe -- towards the end of the First Century around 90-100 AD. However, while it may not be common knowledge, there are certain Bible scholars who do not accept this date as being accurate. For example, in his 1976 work titled "Redating The New Testament", controversial former Anglican bishop and noted Cambridge lecturer, John A. T. Robinson, proposed that much of the New Testament may have been written prior to 65 AD.

More specifically, based on Robinson's own textual criticism of the New Testament, he posited that the Gospel of Matthew may possibly have been written from 40 AD to after 60 AD, the Gospel of Mark between 45-60 AD, the Gospel of Luke before 57 AD to sometime after 60 AD, and the Gospel of John from 40 AD to sometime after 60 AD. One of his reasons for adopting this position was his own observation that, if other scholars were correct, and the majority of the New Testament was written at a later date, it seemed odd to him that there was so little mention of the fiery destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD, by the Roman legions under the command of General Titus, who was the son of Emperor Vespasian.

Allow me to mention that the reason why Robinson's comments are so profound, is because prior to adopting this position, like so many scholars of his time, Robinson was convinced that neither the Apostles nor Paul had actually written the

New Testament. In fact, the consensus of that time was that the New Testament was written as much as one hundred years after the actual time of Jesus Christ and His Apostles. Dr. Robinson would later write that in his view, the scholarship which had led to such a misguided conclusion, was based on a "tyranny of unexamined assumptions" which had been fueled by an "almost willful blindness." Obviously, Robinson's change of perspective was not warmly embraced by his peers. In fact, he was declared anathema by certain Christians. Robinson's change of views was reported in the March 21, 1977 edition of Time magazine, not quite six years before his death.

While I can't agree with Robinson on everything that he ever wrote, I can concur with him on this particular point, being as I've likewise wondered about this issue myself. If we stop to consider how important the Temple was to the Jews, and the fact that in Matthew chapter twenty-four, Jesus clearly told His Apostles of its coming destruction, one must wonder why they didn't write about these events after-the-fact; that is, if the New Testament was really written at a later date. In other words, assuming that you had lived during that time as a Jew, had been chosen by Jesus, and had heard Him foretell of the destruction of the temple, and then later witnessed the event yourself, wouldn't you want to write about it, if for no other reason than to confirm that Jesus' prophecy had been fulfilled to the letter? Wouldn't this fact add to the credibility of our Savior for future generations? Here are the verses from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke where this prophecy is discussed:

"And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."
Matthew 24:1-2, KJV

"And as some spake of the temple, how it was adorned with goodly stones and gifts, he said, As for these things which ye behold, the days will come, in the which there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down."
Luke 21:5-6, KJV

Thus, as John A. T. Robinson observed, and most people will agree, the discussions in the Gospels concerning the Temple are clearly written from the perspective of the Temple not having been destroyed yet. As we saw in part one, in writing about the coming "son of perdition", who will perform signs and lying wonders, and sit in the Temple and declare himself "God", Paul likewise wrote from the very same pre-destruction perspective. Absolutely no one in the New Testament writes as if he is looking back towards 70 AD. Why is that? There is another major reason why they may not have done so, but I'll be addressing this issue in a separate article sometime in the future, God willing.

John A. T. Robinson was not alone in his assertion that the Books of the New Testament were written considerably earlier than what had been traditionally accepted by Bible scholars up until that time. In 1955, noted Biblical archeologist Dr. William F. Albright wrote the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"We can already say emphatically that there is no longer any

solid basis for dating any book of the New Testament after circa A.D. 80."

----- End Quote -----

However, later, after additional archeological evidence had been uncovered in the forthcoming years, Professor Albright revised his previous statement and declared that the Books of the New Testament were written "probably sometime between circa A.D. 50 and 75."

Another Anglican Bible scholar who followed in the footsteps of John A. T. Robinson was John W. Wenham. In 1992, Wenham published his work "Redating Matthew, Mark And Luke: A Fresh Assault On The Synoptic Problem", in which he affirmed his belief that the Gospel of Matthew was the very first Gospel that was written, and that it was written by Levi; that is, Matthew the tax collector. Wenham also believed that Mark's Gospel was written after Matthew's Gospel, and that it was written by Mark the Evangelist, who certain scholars propose was not the same person as John Mark. Wenham believed that this was followed by the Gospel of Luke, which was written by Luke the Macedonian physician.

This order of writing the Gospels is commonly referred to as the Augustinian Hypothesis, being as it was first proposed by Augustine of Hippo, who was a Church bishop during the early part of the Fifth Century. Most people know the bishop as Saint Augustine. To continue then, John W. Wenham became convinced that these three Gospels -- which are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels due to their similarities in content and structure -- were written considerably earlier than what traditional scholarship has supposed.

There are a number of other Bible scholars and theologians who embrace the view that the New Testament was not written as late as certain more liberal theologians seem to think, but I hope that the evidence which I have presented here is sufficient to convince you that this is indeed so. Another set of verses which may lend support to the idea that the Book of Revelation may have been written much earlier than what has been commonly accepted, is found in Paul's second Epistle to the Corinthians. Consider the following:

"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."

2 Corinthians 12:2-4, KJV

No modern reader of the Bible knows with absolute certainty of whom Paul was writing, being as Paul doesn't identify the person by name. However, in my view, there is a very strong possibility that Paul may have been referring to the Apostle John, who was most certainly "caught up into paradise", as we can easily see by the following verses that are found in the fourth chapter of the Book of Revelation:

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was

set in heaven, and one sat on the throne . . ."
Revelation 4:1-2a, KJV

There is another big clue contained in Paul's words which, in my view, points to John as being the man to whom Paul is referring. Please notice that Paul very specifically writes "and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter". Immediately after reading those words, I was reminded of the following verses in the Book of Revelation:

"And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not."
Revelation 10:3-4, KJV

In my view, Paul's words and these verses fit together like a hand in a glove, because John was specifically told not to reveal what he had just heard the Seven Thunders speak. Also, please notice that both sets of verses even utilize the very same Greek verb -- *laleo* -- which in our English language is translated as "utter".

If Paul was actually writing about the Apostle John, and if, as some theologians believe, Paul was beheaded by the Romans around the year 67 AD -- there exists no clear historical or Biblical proof to confirm this belief -- then this means that John may have received the Book of Revelation as early as the year 53 AD, or even earlier, and not later around 90-100 AD. I cannot overemphasize the significance of this possibility.

Some of you reading this may be wondering why I am dedicating so much time to discussing the issue of when the Books of the New Testament were written. As John A. T. Robinson realized, and I assume other scholars as well, proposing dates that are considerably earlier than those which have been accepted by traditional Bible scholars, carries with it some profound, serious and complex ramifications. As Robinson noted, if his assumptions are correct -- and I personally do believe that they are more accurate -- then in his words, it necessitates "the rewriting of many introductions to -- and ultimately, theologies of -- the New Testament." In other words, if many or all of the New Testament Books were written earlier than what some scholars have proposed, it opens a whole new door to how we can understand them; particularly those which are prophetic in nature, such as Matthew chapter twenty-four, Luke chapter twenty-one, 2 Thessalonians 2, and the entire Book of Revelation.

I will tell you right now, that this possibility is so mind-boggling, and so far-reaching, that it motivated me to begin writing a new article concerning this very topic, which, as I explained at the beginning of this series, ultimately led me to writing this current series. In short, sometime in the future -- I can't promise how soon -- you can expect another article from me, which may seriously challenge your current understanding of Endtime Bible prophecy. Even before writing it, I sense that I personally will be forced to abandon some long-held beliefs, in light of the new understanding of the Scriptures -- more specifically, of Endtime prophecy -- that the Lord has already begun to reveal to me.

When I do release the upcoming series, I pray that your mind and heart will be open to whatever God -- through His Word --

may choose to reveal to us, even if it results in your having to significantly modify, or maybe even totally abandon, your current understanding of Endtime events. You will need to ask yourself how far you are willing to go if your current views regarding the Endtime are Scripturally proven to be false. It will really come down to how much you really want to know the truth, no matter the price. Personally, I don't desire to be deceived. If I have been wrong about certain things, then I want to know about it. How about you?

Please be thinking about this issue. In the meantime, allow me to give you one example which is directly related to this current series. If it is indeed true that the Revelation of John the Divine was written considerably earlier than what is commonly believed, it adds an interesting perspective to the seventh chapter of the Book of Revelation, where we read that 144,000 members of the Tribes of Israel are sealed by God in order to protect them from the Divine Plagues that are about to fall upon the Earth. This is an issue which I also discuss in the series "The Woman In The Wilderness And The 144,000".

You need to realize that in Paul's day, some members of the Christian Church were very much convinced that the end of the known world was close at hand, and that Jesus Christ would be returning very soon. Does that sound familiar to you? Thus, to enlighten them concerning these issues, and put things in proper perspective, the Apostle Paul wrote his second letter to the Thessalonian brethren, for example, where he writes in part:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, KJV

Now, consider this: If you lived during that time, and if you were a Christian believer of Jewish descent, and if the Book of Revelation had already been given to John, and if you were aware of the contents of chapter seven where it states that only 144,000 Israelites would be sealed, would you not want to know with certainty about your genealogical records? Wouldn't you want to know what tribe you belonged to, in order to possibly gauge what your chances were of being included in the 144,000? As I said, this is simply a personal theory which I obviously cannot conclusively prove; but if there is any truth to it, it would certainly help to explain why some of the brethren were so concerned with genealogies at that time.

Even if the theory is wrong, I believe that the rest of the information that is contained in this series makes it easier to understand why keeping track of genealogies in Paul's day would remain so important to the Jews who had not accepted Christ as the one and only true Messiah. As we have already seen, those Jews who had rejected Christ were still waiting for a messiah; and the only way that they could ascertain whether or not he was a direct descendant of the bloodline of King David, was by examining his genealogical records.

As I first noted in my 1998 article "The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?", for those of us who have accepted Jesus

Christ as our Lord and Savior, and who have been born again in the Spirit, matters which pertain to physical birth are really of little significance, as are issues which pertain to national identity and citizenship; because as members of God's Kingdom, and like the Saints of old, we seek "a better country, that is, an heavenly". As we are taught in the Word, once we have been washed in the Blood of the Lamb, and have been spiritually born anew, we are new creatures with a new life in Jesus. We are members of God's Royal Household, and that is all that really matters. Old things are passed away, all things have in fact become new, and we are one in Christ Jesus, as we see by the following verses:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

John 1:12, KJV

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"

Ephesians 1:4-5, KJV

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Romans 8:15-17, KJV

"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:16, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

Ephesians 2:19, KJV

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for YE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS."

Galatians 3:27-28, KJV

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:26, KJV

Once we begin to understand how important our oneness in the Savior was to the Apostle Paul, it becomes a lot easier to understand why Paul would have an aversion to genealogical debates. In other words, debates of that kind were divisive in nature. They did absolutely nothing to promote the unity and spiritual oneness of Jewish and Gentile believers. As I have shared before, the Apostle Paul made plain his desire for spiritual unity in the Body of Christ when he penned the following words in his first Epistle to the Corinthians:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

1 Corinthians 1:10, KJV

In contrast, as we have already seen, the unbelieving Jews, such as the legalistic Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees who rejected Christ, were always looking for ways to divide the young, new Christian Church. What they had begun with their arguments with Jesus concerning the Sabbath, paying taxes to Rome, healing on the Sabbath day, eating with unclean hands, and a multitude of other legalistic issues, they continued to do with the new Christian Church. Debates concerning the necessity of circumcision was just one of their tactics. It has occurred to me that there may have been another reason why the unbelieving Jews may have used Jewish genealogies as another tool to sow division amongst the early Christian Disciples.

If there is one thing that the New Testament Scriptures make very clear, it is that the unbelieving Jewish Elders viewed Jesus as a threat to their own position of power. This fact was made very clear by the high priest Caiaphas when he said to his fellow Jews:

"Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not."

John 11:49b-50, KJV

"Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people."

John 18:14, KJV

Please understand that while Jesus died in order to obtain the Salvation of the Jewish nation, and in fact of the whole world, this is not why Caiaphas made that statement. It is commonly believed that his true concern was that unless the situation with Jesus was brought under control, the Romans might begin to view Jesus, along with His growing number of followers, as a serious threat to Roman authority. If this were to happen, the Jewish Elders were sure that merciless Rome would pounce upon Israel, and remove them from power, which they obviously did not want to happen. Thus, the Jews of the Sanhedrin conspired to murder Jesus, as is made very plain in verses such as the following:

"Then assembled together the CHIEF PRIESTS, AND THE SCRIBES, and the ELDERS OF THE PEOPLE, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might TAKE JESUS BY SUBTILTY, AND KILL HIM. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Matthew 26:3-5, KJV

"Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. And the CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES SOUGHT HOW THEY MIGHT KILL HIM; for they feared the people."

Luke 22:1-2, KJV

"And therefore did the JEWS PERSECUTE JESUS, AND SOUGHT TO SLAY HIM, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also

that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."
John 5:16-18, KJV

"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the JEWS SOUGHT TO KILL HIM . . . Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? WHY GO YE ABOUT TO KILL ME? The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who GOETH ABOUT TO KILL THEE? . . . Then said some of them of Jerusalem, IS NOT THIS HE, WHOM THEY SEEK TO KILL?"
John 7:1, 19-20, 25, KJV

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but YE SEEK TO KILL ME, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now YE SEEK TO KILL ME, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham."
John 8:37-40, KJV

"Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore HE THAT DELIVERED ME UNTO THEE HATH THE GREATER SIN. And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar."
John 19:10-12, KJV

". . . My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be DELIVERED TO THE JEWS: but now is my kingdom not from hence."
John 18:36b, KJV

"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, WHOM YE SLEW AND HANGED ON A TREE."
Acts 5:27-30, KJV

In the end, as many Christians know, the unbelieving Jewish Elders used that very same political ploy -- that is, that Jesus was a traitor and a threat to Rome -- to pressure the Roman prefect, Pontius Pilate, into doing their dirty work for them, by crucifying the Messiah. When that ploy failed to work, because neither Herod nor Pilate found any guilt in Jesus, those same vile Jews resorted to mob rule, and scared Pilate into doing their bloody bidding, by painting Pilate as disloyal to Rome, if he did not crucify Jesus.

While the unbelieving Jewish Elders at the time believed that Christ's Crucifixion had resolved the immediate problem with Rome, little did they realize that through their heinous act of murdering the Son of God, they had in fact sealed their fate, and ensured that the Wrath of God would soon fall upon their nation, and sweep them from power. As you may realize, about forty years later, exactly as Jesus had prophesied in

Matthew chapter twenty-four, and in other Gospel chapters, Jerusalem -- including their precious Temple -- was utterly destroyed by Roman forces under the leadership of General Titus, who was the son of Emperor Vespasian, in 70 AD. God's vengeance upon those antichrists was sure and complete. As we read in the Epistle to the Hebrews:

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a consuming fire."
Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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Endless Genealogies And Endtime Deception : Part 3

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Jesus Posed A Threat To Jewish Religious Control Over Masses,
God Calls Saul Of Tarsus, Jewish Elders' Problems Continued,
Apostle Paul Preaches God's Grace Above Works Of Mosaic Law,
Influx Of Gentile Christians Posed Problem To Christian Jews,
Peter's Vision And Acceptance Of Salvation For The Gentiles,
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Discussing Endless Genealogies Is Vain Jangling Empty Talk,
Beware Of Heretics And Sowers Of Discord, Closing Remarks

Returning to our earlier discussion, not only did the Jewish Elders view Jesus as a serious threat to their precarious relationship with the Roman authorities, but He also posed a threat to their dominance over the common Jewish masses. As I explain in other articles, the way that these oppressive Jews maintained control over their fellow Jews, was through their legalistic and heavy-handed imposition of the Mosaic Law. As you may recall, Jesus, of course, thoroughly exposed their hypocrisy, their devilish nature, and their lack of love and mercy, in such chapters as Matthew twenty-three. Ironically, while certain denominations within modern Christendom do the same thing, at the same time, an extremely dangerous wave of doctrinal liberalism has swept through the Church as well.

When God called Saul of Tarsus -- later to be known as the Apostle Paul -- on the road to Damascus, and Saul soon became

a firebrand for the Lord, and the Apostle to the Gentiles, this by no means helped the cause of the legalistic Jews who were residing in Jerusalem, who still maintained their grip on power, now that Jesus was gone. Paul's many speeches and Epistles which emphasized the Grace of God above the works of the Law were obviously a threat to the Jewish Elders in Jerusalem. In fact, as I point out in other articles, once Paul began to win Gentile converts to the nascent Christian Church, and began to instruct them in the freedoms of the Spirit -- without the Law -- even the Christian Elders and Disciples in Jerusalem began to question Paul's doctrines. Of course, we know from Acts chapter fifteen and elsewhere, that Paul and his Gentile followers eventually arrived at a doctrinal agreement with the Christian Elders in Jerusalem.

But the point I wish to impress upon you is this: With such a great influx of Gentile believers into the faith, due to the untiring work of Paul, Barnabas, Silas, John Mark, and other New Testament Apostles and Disciples, the legalistic Jews obviously felt very threatened. In their minds, their faith was beginning to be overrun by unclean "heathen". As we read in the Book of Acts, even some of the First Century Christian Elders initially had difficulty in accepting these new Gentile brethren into the Church. Again, as I explain in other articles, it wasn't until God gave Peter a heavenly vision in Acts chapter ten, that Peter was finally able to truly comprehend that Christ had died for all men, including for the Gentile nations, as we see here:

"On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven."
Acts 10:9-16, KJV

As a result of Peter's submission and obedience to the Lord's Will, we read in Acts chapters ten and eleven that Cornelius, who was a Roman centurion who resided in Caesarea, was saved, along with his entire family. But guess what? The legalistic Law-bound Jews, including some of the Christian brethren who resided in Jerusalem, initially were not very happy regarding this wonderful development. Consider the following verses where their displeasure with Peter is made quite plain:

"And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them."
Acts 11:2-3, KJV

It is interesting to note that in the previous verses, the word "contend" is translated from the Greek word "diakrino". Consider what the Greek lexicon has to say about this word:

----- Begin Quote -----

1) to separate, make a distinction, discriminate, to prefer

- 2) to learn by discrimination, to try, decide
 - 2a) to determine, give judgment, decide a dispute
- 3) to withdraw from one, desert
- 4) to separate one's self in a hostile spirit, to oppose, strive with dispute, contend
- 5) to be at variance with one's self, hesitate, doubt

----- End Quote -----

In other words, despite Peter's status as one of the leaders of the Early Church, these self-righteous Jews argued with him, and in fact separated themselves from him, as if Peter had the plague. They were so certain of their own holiness, that they treated Peter like an unclean thing which had been contaminated by unholy Gentile dogs.

You need to remember that for thousands of years, the Tribes of Israel had been concerned with both their genetic, as well as their spiritual purity. In fact, it becomes obvious from reading the Scriptures that, just as still occurs in our own day, the Jews viewed themselves as being genetically, as well as spiritually, superior to all other humans on the face of the planet. They -- so they like to claim -- are the chosen race, and the elect of God. This type of Jewish propaganda has been so successful, that today, in countries such as the United States of America, entire governments bend to the will of the Jews, and many American Christians view themselves as Christian Zionists. One is not even considered a patriotic American, unless he or she is pro-Israel; at least so say certain politicians, Christian leaders and other misguided people.

Please do not fall for this devilish deception; and remember this: If you are washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ, who is the spotless Lamb of God, then you have been made every whit clean, and your sins have been made as white as wool. As we saw earlier in this article, you are a full-fledged, saved, adopted Child of God, and a bona fide member of God's Royal Household, and nothing is ever going to change that, because God's Word stands forever, and He most certainly doesn't lie. The flesh Jews of this Earth are in no way superior to you; so don't let them convince you that you are a second class citizen in the Kingdom of God, and that they somehow have a spiritual edge over you, because they most certainly don't. In fact, in God's eyes, it may well be that you are superior to them, because you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, while most of them have not. Please consider the following verses:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
Isaiah 1:18, KJV

"Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all."
John 13:10, KJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."
John 15:3, KJV

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin . . . If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to

cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:7, 9, KJV

You know, I will confess to you now that there have been a few times in my life when I have thought to myself how it would really be wonderful if I possessed some Jewish blood in my family's genealogies. It would make me feel so much closer to the Lord, I reasoned. It would provide me with a closer connection to the events and history of Israel, etc. I wouldn't be surprised to learn that some of you who are reading this series have felt the very same thing. Well, if you have thought this, please don't, because in my view, it is wrong, and totally unnecessary. As Jesus plainly taught us:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 6:63, KJV

As I noted earlier, what we are genetically and ethnically in the flesh is of very little importance. It is who we are in the Spirit that matters, and our birthright is in Heaven, thanks to the atoning Sacrifice of our Blessed Savior, Amen?

In light of this misguided Jewish mentality of superiority, it has occurred to me that this may possibly be yet another reason why certain Jews, including an unspecified number of the Christian Jews, became embroiled in debates concerning "endless genealogies". In other words, as a result of the great influx of so many Gentile converts into the Christian Church during the First Century, perhaps some of these Jews, Christian and non-Christian alike, felt threatened; and so by pointing to "endless genealogies", they were still trying to legitimize their alleged superiority over other races. At the very least, perhaps they were trying to use genealogical records as a way to preserve and to affirm their own Jewish identity. In fact, I think it is fair to say that this is a battle which has been waged for the past two thousand years, and still continues today.

If this is the case, as I said before, this would certainly give the Apostle Paul good reason to admonish them to desist from such activities; because they were non-productive, and they did not build up the Body of Christ. They in fact tore it down, divided it and detracted from the oneness that we Christians have in Jesus Christ. In his Epistle to Timothy, the Apostle Paul went on to say that those who engaged in such activities were guilty of "vain jangling", as we see by these verses:

"From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."

1 Timothy 1:6-7, KJV

That phrase "vain jangling" is derived from the Greek word "mataiologia" which means vain talking or empty talk. To put it another way, Paul was saying that such people were simply legalistic troublemakers who didn't know what they were even talking about. It is interesting to note that in referring to the writings of Paul, and these same kinds of troublesome people, the Apostle Peter made a very similar comment when he wrote the following:

". . . even as our beloved brother Paul also according to

the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

2 Peter 3:15b-16, KJV

Finally, in the third chapter of his Epistle to Titus, where as we saw earlier, Paul also mentioned the problem regarding arguing about genealogies, he as much as said that those who engaged in these divisive activities were akin to heretics, as we see by verse ten below:

"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;"

Titus 3:10, KJV

Let me also add that in the Old Testament Scriptures, we are also told that the Lord hates those who sow discord amongst the brethren, as we see here:

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Proverbs 6:16-19, KJV

In conclusion, it is my earnest hope that you can now see that physical bloodlines and human genealogical records have little relevance in the Kingdom of Heaven; because as God's Word makes rather clear, we are all covered by the Blood of Jesus Christ, and that is truly all that we need. We are all one in Christ Jesus, and we are all members of the Household of God without genetic distinction. Amen? Furthermore, as the Apostle Paul so wonderfully informs us in his Epistle to the Corinthians, flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, so what does it really matter?:

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

1 Corinthians 15:50-52, KJV

With these inspiring thoughts I will bring this series to a close. I pray that you have found it informative, and that it has been a blessing in your life.

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