The Besorah of Yeshua

"The book of the genealogy of Yeshua ha-Mashiach, Ben-David, Ben-Avraham" (Matt. 1:1).

The Almighty chose to begin the exposition of the *Besorah* (Good News) with *Matthew 1:1.* Using Google we read that *Besorah* (Hebrew: בְּשׂוֹרָה) is the Hebrew term for *good news* or *gospel*, derived from the verb *basar* (to bring tidings). It appears six times in the Hebrew Bible, originally referring to military victory or deliverance (e.g., *2 Samuel 18:27*) and later evolving in prophetic literature (*Isaiah 52:7*) to signify divine salvation and the arrival of the Messiah. The term is central to Messianic Judaism where it frames the life and teachings of *Yeshua* as the fulfillment of ancient promises.

This is almost the identical beginning to this week's *Torah Portion, Parashat Tol*^{e}*dot, Genesis 25:19-28:9:* "ואלה תולדת יצחק בן־אברהם" In the Hebrew Mathew version that I have *Matthew 1:1* is written as: ספר תולדת ישוע המשיח בן־דוד בן־אברהם and: אלה תולדת יש״ו בן־דוד בן־אברהם in another manuscript which is identical to the *Torah*. In biblical theology, types and shadows are Hebrew Scripture persons, events, or institutions that serve as *prophetic foreshadowings* of greater spiritual realities, primarily *Yeshua* and the New Covenant. For example, the *Passover Lamb* was a type and shadow of *Messiah Yeshua* as the sacrificial Lamb. Here is another instance of *Isaac* being a Scriptural type and shadow of *Yeshua* Not only was the Sacrifice of *Isaac* and *Yeshua* related in meaning, but also the construction of the first sentence in the Book of *Matthew,* introducing the narrative of *Yeshua* matches the introduction of the narrative of *Isaac* in the 6*th Parsha*.

Genealogy is not a very important concept to us in America these days, that is, unless you are Jewish! In the melting pot that is our United States, genealogy, ethnicity, distinctions, and lineage are almost taboo. The socialist agenda promoted by the US Democratic party would have us all ignore such distinctions, but we are not all exactly the same, are we? The old campaign of the 1980's was tolerance and celebration of diversity. Wow! This meant that then we could be different and have different ethnicity and in the name of diversity this was OK. But today this is not OK?

The ethnicity, lineage, diversity, and culture of *Messiah Yeshua* counts! *Matthew* tells us that He is *Ben David* (בן־דוד) and *Ben Avraham* (בן־אברהם). In *Genesis*, Scripture gives us the generations (*tol*^{e}*dot*) of Abraham and Isaac, but in Matthew we are given the *tol*^{e}*dot* of *Yeshua HaMashiac: "So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the Babylonian exile are fourteen generations, and from the Babylonian exile until the Messiah are fourteen generations." (Matt. 1:17)*

What is so significant about the number fourteen? Why does Matthew purposely omit *Adam* and others and starts with *Abraham* (not *Adam* and not *Noah*, for example)? Obviously, he was not trying to be literally accurate with his account and so, he must have had another purpose. When he used the number fourteen (14) he was giving us a Biblical code – the numerical value of דוד (*dalet - vav - dalet*) is 4+6+4, i.e., 14! Thus, he was saying *Ben David*! *Ben David*! *Ben David*!

The long-awaited *Ben David!* Note that His earthly father is also *Ben David (*"*But while he was thinking about this, an angel of Adonai appeared to him in a dream saying, 'Joseph son of David…' Matt. 1:20*), and His earthly mother is also *Bat David (*"*Yeshua was about thirty years old when He began his ministry. He was the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, …,the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, …, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God" (Luke 3:23-38)*.

In both *Luke 3:27* and Matthew 1:12 Scripture mentions *"Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel"*, as a common ancestor to both *Joseph* and Miryam. Who was this person? When you discover this, you will

rejoice with me! At the time our people returned from the Babylonian captivity (≈520 B.C.E.), *Zerubbabel* was the heir to the throne of David and was referred to in Scripture as the Governor of Judah. We read about him in *Haggai* and *Zechariah*. *Zerubbabel* had the plum-line, and he is almost always mentioned together with *Joshua son of Jehozadak* the *cohen gadol*: *"In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of Adonai came through Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jehozadak, kohen gadol:" (Haggai 1:1)*

If we believe we are in *prophetic times,* then we are in the times of the *rebuilding of the temple*, elucidated in the minor prophets, especially *Haggai* and *Zechariah*. In one of the most oft-quoted Biblical passages ever we again meet *Zerubbabel*. This time, the *Angel of Adonai* (*Yeshua?*) tells us that the work of *Zerubbabel* will indeed be completed: *"Then he responded to me by saying, 'This is the word of Adonai to Zerubbabel saying: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Ruach!" says Adonai-Tzva'ot… "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this House. His hands will also finish it. Then you will know that Adonai-Tzva'ot has sent me to you." (Zechariah 4:6, 9)*

Matthew reminds us that the Judean Monarchy ended with the Babylonian captivity. But the prophet *Isaiah* nevertheless tells us that it will spring forth again: *"Then a shoot will come forth out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch will bear fruit out of His roots" (Isaiah 11:1)*. Once a mighty tree possessing the throne and the crown of Israel, the prophet foretells of the time that it would be shorn to nothing but a stump. However, a new branch (*The Branch*) will grow from the old stump of David. This *Branch* will be a fruitful one, *Yeshua!* Since that time, no descendant of David has sat on the throne of David reigning over the Children of Israel. Coincidence? Herod was not a descendant of David. In fact, he was not even Jewish! (He was an Edomite, a descendant of Esau). The Maccabees (Hasmoneans) were not descendants of David. The Hasmonean Kingdom did not last very long. About 60 BCE two Hasmonean brothers waged a bloody civil war. An Edomite noble called Antipater called upon Rome to intervene and the Roman general, Pompey, marched on the land of Israel and settled the civil war by force installing Antipater as governor. When Antipater died, Caesar Augustus raised Antipater's son Herod over the position of *king of Israel*. Herod murdered his wife (a descendant of the Hasmoneans) and had his sons strangled. He also had the Sanhedrin murdered. Josephus writes about the calamities of Herod's reign. Perhaps this explains why descendants of King David settled in Nazareth (*Joseph & Mary*, for one). They knew that *Isaiah* prophesied: *"For to us a child is born, a son will be given to us, and the government will be upon His shoulder. His Name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God My Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and shalom there will be no end – on the throne of David and over His kingdom – to establish it and uphold it through justice and righteousness from now until forevermore. The zeal of Adonai-Tzva'ot will accomplish this" (Isaiah 9:5,6; 6,7 in the KJV).*

The angel told Joseph that the child conceived in Mary's womb was of the *Ruach*. The Rabbis make an interesting observation on *Isaiah 9:6,7*. In the Hebrew of verse 7 there is a small, seemingly insignificant spelling error in the word translated as increase. The misspelled word is לסרבה, *Lemarbeh*. In that word, the letter מ (*mem)* appears in its *sofit* form ם, a form ordinarily appearing only at the end of a word. They teach that the closed ם of *Isaiah 9:6* indicates that the promised child will be born *from a closed womb*. The Talmud explains that a closed *mem* indicates a mystical and hidden teaching, but in another place, it relates the closed *mem* to the sealing up of Messiahs identity. The angel further told Joseph that the child was to be named ישוע'. *Yeshua* means salvation. In his announcement of the name, the angel makes a play on words (Hebrew pun) saying: *"And you will call his name Yeshua, for he will save (yoshia) his people." Matthew 1* ends by quoting *Isaiah 7:14*: *"Therefore Adonai himself will give you people a sign: the young woman will become pregnant, bear a son and name him 'Immanu El'"*. *Shabbat Shalom!*