



# The Zion Letter

The Monthly Newsletter of For Zion's Sake Ministries, Inc.  
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## The Kinsman Redeemer and the Mystery of Inheritance

*“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, Abba! Father! The Spirit Himself testifies with our Spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Messiah, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.” Romans 8:15-17*

I recently read an article about how Caroline Kennedy is selling her Mom's 300 acre estate on Martha's Vineyard. It had a video marketing the property displaying a large pond, a mile of private beach, a large house and acres of beautiful sandy trails to explore. I could not figure out why the daughter of JFK and Jackie Kennedy would want to sell such a magnificent summer home. Then somehow I stumbled upon an article about the death of JFK-Jr., Caroline's brother and the only son of JFK. It said that JFK-Jr. left his wealth and his 50% share in the home on Martha's Vineyard to his sister's two children. Bingo, now I realized the problem. Caroline is getting older; if she were to die, the taxes would be outrageous to her heirs when they inherit and go to sell the property. Taxes in Massachusetts, for a relative who shares ownership of property, may be fifty percent or more! Selling now is wise, and the proceeds can be put into a tax sheltered trust and can preserve family wealth for generations to come. Brilliant! Under the Old Covenant, God had some pretty cool inheritance moves of His own; in Israel (the Davidic Kingdom and Israel in general) inheritance and the family name was passed on strictly by connection through marriage. Ruth obtained her inheritance by marriage to Boaz after her Jewish husband died in Moab and she remarried. Inher-



itance and family name was also passed on by fathers, until that father died. If a Jewish woman's father or husband died, the law of the Kinsman Redeemer provided that the deceased's brother or male next of kin would take her as his wife, thus preserving the family name of the deceased and giving the property to his wife and/or daughters, (Leviticus 25:25-49, Num 27:8-11, Ruth 1-4). Did you know that even Yeshua/Jesus needed a kinsman redeemer to qualify to be the Messiah? Let's look!

### Are the laws of the Torah done away with in Christ?

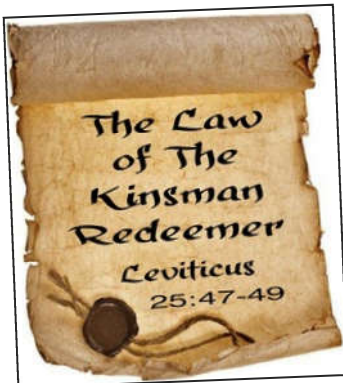
It is important to note that many of the laws, ordinances, and commandments of the Old Covenant did not disappear with the coming of Yeshua/Jesus. For example, The Ten Commandments still apply. There are many instructions God gave to Moses that have New Covenant applications. For example, the Torah teaches tithing; tithing existed before the Torah was given dating back to Abraham, it is talked about in the New Covenant in the Book of Hebrews, and it is practiced widely by Christians and Messianic Jews today. Leviticus 19:18 says that we must **“Love our neighbor as yourself.”** Sounds kind of New Testament, yes? Leviticus 19:11-13 says, **“You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. You shall not swear falsely by My name so as to profane the name of your God; I am the Lord... The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning.”** All of these commandments still apply today. Even though workers are often paid bi-weekly or monthly, the spirit of the law is that their pay should not be withheld so as to bring hardship upon them. There are hundreds of “laws” or commandments from the Old Testament that still apply today, including God's laws of inheritance and the kinsman redeemer.

### **The Law of the Kinsman Redeemer:**

America's history is not without blemish. When this country was founded, women had few rights and blacks were counted as 3/5 of a person. Praise God we have matured, changed, and overcome much prejudice. We have had our first black president, and women serve in the senate, as secretaries of state, and as CEOs of major corporations. In ancient Israel, women and slaves had very few rights, but God made provision for them in His word. The Law of the Kinsman Redeemer, first mentioned in Leviticus 25, and beautifully demonstrated in the book of Ruth, still applies today. Even Yeshua needed a kinsman redeemer! Let's turn to Matthew chapter one.

### **Who was Jesus's Father?**

Matthew 1:1 says, "*The record of the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*" Yet in verse 18 we are told, "*Now the birth of Yeshua the Messiah was as follows: when His mother Miriam (Mary) had been betrothed to Joseph, but before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.*" Is the Holy Spirit a son of David or of Abraham? Did Abraham father the Ruach Ha Kodesh (Holy Spirit)? Of course He didn't. The Spirit of God was not born of a woman or by the seed of a man, therefore He cannot make a person a son of David, a son of Abraham or of anyone else for that matter... you need a man for that! The Bible even says, "*God is not a man that He should lie, neither the son of man, that he should repent.*" **Numbers 23:19.** This is exactly why the New Testament begins with the genealogy of Joseph, and why the angel appeared to Joseph and told Joseph to take Mary as His wife and not to put her away. Why was Joseph so important? Because as a direct descendant of the line of King David, through Solomon and the Kings of Judah, Joseph could pass that royal lineage to Yeshua as His "kinsman redeemer" as well as provide the boy's right to sit on the throne of David! Joseph could, in effect, adopt the Son of God and give Him an inheritance that even the Holy Spirit could not give – that of being a son of David and a son of Abraham. In his generation, Joseph was the man closest in line to the throne of King David, and was specifically chosen by the Lord to pass the title, "Son of David" onto His adoptive son, Yeshua. Joseph could also pass the inheritance of the eternal Davidic Kingdom. According to the Biblical law, which is also considered a will and legal document, the person with the title and inheritance of "Son of David" will at some point in time again take seat on



the throne of King David in Jerusalem. Since Yeshua had no earthly children (physically), the direct line of David stopped with Him. God orchestrated the situation so no one else but Yeshua could possibly become heir to David's throne! Even though Yeshua was conceived by the Holy Spirit (see verse 18), His adoptive father gave Him the title of *Son of David* and *Son of Abraham* and the right to the throne of David and the inheritance of the entire Davidic Kingdom. That's why Joseph was page one news and very critical to the plan.

### **The Messiah had to be a descendant of King David:**

All the way back to the genealogies of Abraham in Genesis 11, and to Jacob blessing His twelve sons (speaking of Judah) he said, "*The Scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*" **Genesis 49:10.** God chose a family through Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob, then Judah to carry the Royal Line, the Line of the messiah! Every genealogy afterwards deals with the Royal Line, the Line of Judah: "*Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him... Then it will come about in that day that the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.*" (**Isaiah 11:1,2,10**). So it was Bible prophecy, God's word, which required the Messiah to be a descendant of King David. Nevertheless, apart from the fact that the Ruach Ha Kodesh/Holy Spirit was not a son of David, there was another problem to contend with.

### **The Curse of Jeconiah:**

Can you believe it? God cursed the royal line of King David! After many kings of Judah, there was a very wicked king named Jeconiah or Coniah. Jeconiah was a King of Judah and a direct descendant of the royal line of King David, but he was so wicked that he angered the Lord to the breaking point, and thus God cursed him and all his offspring! In Jeremiah 22:24-30, God cursed Jeconiah, banished him to Babylon, and then He said, "*Write this man (Jeconiah) down as childless (no heir to the throne of David), for no man of his descendants will prosper sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.*" **Jeremiah 22:30.** So if we look at the genealogy in Matthew 1:12 we read, "*After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubababel.*" But if the line of David was cursed then how was Joseph to be of help in wedding Mary? An angel of God appeared to Joseph and commanded him to wed Mary! Mary needed a kinsman redeemer in order to have property, land, a home, food to eat, etcetera. God cares about us all, and He was intent on providing for Mary's welfare, but



even more importantly, it was through the **instrument of adoption** that God was able to break the curse on the **bloodline of Jeconiah!** That's right, by taking Mary as his wife, Joseph legally adopted Yeshua/Jesus, giving him the inherited title of "Son of David", "Son of Abraham" and making Him sole heir to the throne of King David! Incredibly, Yeshua was the last and only heir to the throne of David and title of "Son of David" because after Him, **no physical heirs** were born! Wow! God broke the curse on the line of Jeconiah by going around bloodline and using adoption. If Jesus had been born of Joseph's seed, then He would have been cursed too, but since He was adopted, He received ALL the inheritance, the royal lineage, family name, title, and right to the throne with no curse. **Amazing!**

### **I know what you are thinking. What about Mary's lineage in Luke 3?**

"Didn't Mary's lineage solve the problem of inheritance", you ask? In Biblical days, 99.9 % of the time, a woman could not pass inheritance, title, property, or royal line. There was one exception we will get to, but first let's look at Mary's genealogy. In Luke 3:31 we are told that she is a descendant of David's son Nathan. Nathan was the third son of King David who was born to Bathsheba in Jerusalem. Although Nathan was in the royal family, he was not part of the direct line sitting on the throne... kind of like Prince Edward and Andrew or Prince Harry in England. Charles and William are direct heirs to the throne of England; the others are part of the royal family, but unlikely to sit on the throne. Not only was Joseph heir to the direct line of King David and King Solomon, but according to Biblical law and the law of the kinsman redeemer, Yeshua needed a physical man (not a woman) to pass the royal title, His father's name and property to him. If under normal circumstances a woman could pass on such a title then Tamar would have passed a Canaanite lineage to Perez. Rahab would have made Boaz a son of Jericho (a city destroyed by God). Ruth would have made Obed a Moabite (see Mt 1:3-5). Yet none of this happened because the Biblical inheritance was patriarchal (through the father) in the Bible. So why is Mary's genealogy in Luke 3 recorded? The answer is "Zelophedad".

### **The Zelophedad exception:**

Zelophedad traveled in the desert with Moses. He had

five daughters but no sons and apparently no brothers. When Zelophedad died, his daughters were left without title, property, or inheritance; they were left with nothing (See Numbers 27:1-11). So they went to Moses and complained. I said five women went to Moses and complained... (Nuf said...Lol).

Moses wisely brought their case before God and God told Moses to give them the inheritance of their father even though they had no man to marry them and no male next of kin. God established a new law that day that would one day be a "back-up plan" for Yeshua the Messiah to get His inheritance if Joseph decided not to be His earthly father. God said, ***"The daughters of Zelophedad are right in their statements. You shall surely give them a hereditary possession among their father's brothers, and you shall transfer the inheritance of their father to them. Further, you shall speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'if a man dies and has no son, then you shall transfer his inheritance to his daughter'"*** Numbers 27:7-8. This situation is the only time in the Bible when a woman does not need a kinsman redeemer (a male next of kin) to receive her title, inheritance, property or wealth. By this one exception, Mary could have invoked the Law of Zelophedad, provided she knew about it and provided Joseph had decided to reject her as his bride



and her divine child! Mary's lineage is just one more legal line of defense that God implemented in order to insure that Yeshua would receive His rightful place on the eternal throne of David.

### **Conclusion:**

According to the Word of God, the Messiah had to be a Son of David and would inherit the throne of King David (Luke 1:32-33, Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 11:1-10, Jeremiah 23:5-6). His inheritance was to be physical, not spiritual. It took the right man (Joseph) to wed Mary who was with child by the Holy Spirit. The only thing Spiritual about Yeshua being the Messiah was the nature of her pregnancy.

God had a plan to make the boy He fathered a Son of David. Yet in His infinite wisdom, God had a backup plan in case Joseph disobeyed due to free will. Either way, Yeshua would have inherited the throne of David at His return and God made sure Yeshua's future

millennial rule and reign was never in jeopardy! Yeshua was adopted by a man named Joseph, and we too are all adopted sons and daughters, but our adoption is **spiritual** if we are in Messiah (Romans 8:15-17). Nevertheless, laws of Biblical physical inheritance still apply today, just as they do to the Kennedys or your family. Perhaps next month we shall look at physical adoption and inheritance (the kind Yeshua-Jesus received) vs. Spiritual adoption (the kind you and I receive when we accept Yeshua as our Messiah) and the how the Law of the Kinsman Redeemer still applies even today!

I hope you have learned something deeper about the Lord by studying Biblical inheritance and the Kinsman Redeemer. I also want to leave you with something very practical too. If you have property or wealth and intend to pass it on to an heir, please get your house in order as soon as possible. I've seen too many people cheated out of inheritance this year because things weren't written down in a will or a trust. If you have no heir, consider a making your house of worship or a ministry your heir. God bless you!

*In His great Love,*  
Rabbi Joe

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