

## Yeshua the Messiah – Son of David, Son of Avraham

### **The Fulfillment of the Promises of יהוה Requires Prayer**

Like his father Abraham, Isaac was faced with a marriage which was barren of children – but the promises of יהוה required sons. Unlike his father though, Isaac did not take matters into his own hands (he did not try and fulfill them using human effort) but rather Scripture tells us that he “entreated” (ויעתר) יהוה. The Hebrew word here means what we call to make intercession, i.e., he was continually seeking the Almighty about the matter.

*And Isaac entreated יהוה for his wife, because she was barren: and יהוה was entreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. (KJV, Gen 25:21) Isaac prayed to יהוה on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and יהוה answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived. (NASB, Gen. 25:21)*

So what did Isaac dedicate himself to do during this period of barrenness, when even though he was armed with the promises of *Adonai*, there was no solution in sight, and time (about 20 years had passed between the marriage and *Rebekah's* pregnancy) was rapidly passing? He prayed earnestly (he interceded) for *Adonai* to fulfill His promise. And He did – in a way that once again would prove forever that this was His divine doing. It is clear then that during the time of waiting for children, Isaac developed a close personal relationship with יהוה.

The text does not tell us much about Rebekah during this time, but it does indicate that she prayed after she conceived. Obviously, יהוה got her attention when there was “agitation” inside of her. The Hebrew verb used here is in the *hitpalel* tense indicating a continual, vigorous action of crushing, thrusting and striking one another inside the womb. The generations of these twins have been fighting ever since! The result was that Rebekah, like Isaac, was driven to her knees and to seek the Lord.

### **The Toledot of Y'shua**

This week *Torah* portion is *Parashat Toledot*, (תולדות) which means: corollary, consequence, outcome, and offspring. The KJV and most English Bibles translate *toledot* as “generations,” the CJB translates it as history. I am an engineer and a mathematician and I like the meaning consequence, outcome and corollary. Only theorems have corollaries. Theorems are the principles, rules, postulates, premise, thesis, and assumptions in which we base all of mathematics. The Gospel of *Mattityahu* (Matthew) chooses to begin the recanting of the Good News by stating that: “*This is the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah, son of David, son of Avraham*” (Matt. 1:1) Really? Almost the identical beginning to this week's *Torah Portion*. Genealogy, a word not that important 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 proponed by the US Democratic Party would have us all ignore such distinctions and adhere to the “all men are created equal” clause of the US Constitution. But we are not all exactly the same, are we? The forces that attempted to make us all “equal under the law” have succumbed to the new campaign – tolerance & celebration of diversity. Wow! You mean we can be different and have different ethnicity and it is OK now?

The ethnicity, the lineage, the diversity, the culture of *Messiah Yeshua* counts! Matthew tells us that He is *Ben David* (בן דוד) and *Ben Avraham* (בן־אברהם). In *Bereshit*, Scripture continues with the generations of *Avraham* and *Yitzchak*. In Matthew we are told what the “toledot” of Messiah is.

*“This is the genealogy of Yeshua the Messiah, son of David, son of Avraham: Avraham was the father of Yitz'chak, Yitz'chak was the father of Ya'akov, Ya'akov was the father of Y'hudah and his brothers, Y'hudah was the father of Peretz and Zerach (their mother was Tamar), Peretz was the father of Hetzron, Hetzron was the father of Ram, Ram was the father of 'Aminadav, 'Aminadav was the father of Nachshon, Nachshon was the father of Salmon, Salmon was the father of Bo'az (his mother was Rachav), Bo'az was the father of 'Oved (his mother was Rut), 'Oved was the father of Yishai, Yishai was the father of David the king. David was the father of*

*Shlomo (his mother was the wife of Uriyah), Shlomo was the father of Rechav'am, Rechav'am was the father of Aviyah, Aviyah was the father of Asa, Asa was the father of Y'hoshafat, Y'hoshafat was the father of Yoram, Yoram was the father of 'Uziyahu, 'Uziyahu was the father of Yotam, Yotam was the father of Achaz, Achaz was the father of Hizkiyahu, Hizkiyahu was the father of M'nasheh, M'nasheh was the father of Amon, Amon was the father of Yoshiyahu, Yoshiyahu was the father of Y'khanyahu and his brothers at the time of the Exile to Bavel. After the Babylonian Exile, Y'khanyahu was the father of Sh'altiel, Sh'altiel was the father of Z'rubavel, Z'rubavel was the father of Avihud, Avihud was the father of Elyakim, Elyakim was the father of 'Azur, 'Azur was the father of Tzadok, Tzadok was the father of Yakhin, Yakhin was the father of El'ichud, El'ichud was the father of El'azar, El'azar was the father of Mattan, Mattan was the father of Ya'akov, Ya'akov was the father of Yosef, the husband of Miryam, from whom was born the Yeshua who was called the Messiah. Thus there were fourteen generations from Avraham to David, fourteen generations from David to the Babylonian Exile, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian Exile to the Messiah. (Matt. 1:1-17)*

What is so significant about the number fourteen? Why does *Mattityahu* purposely omit *Adam* et, al? al., and starts with *Avraham* (not *Adam* and not *Noach*, for example)? Obviously, he was not trying to be “letter” accurate with his account; he must have had another purpose. When he used the number fourteen he was telling a code – the numerical value of טיט is 4+6+4, i.e., 14 which means salvation! Thus he was saying *David! David! David! Salvation! Salvation! Salvation! Deliverance!* The long awaited *Ben David!* Not only that, His earthly father is also *Ben David* (Son of Salvation) and His earthly mother is also *Bat David* (Daughter of Salvation): “*Yeshua was about thirty years old when he began his public ministry. It was supposed that he was a son of Yosef who was of Eli, of Enosh, of Shet, of Adam, of God.*” (Luke 3:23-38).

There is no question that the *Mashiach* had to be from the tribe of *Yehudah* and specifically from the direct lineage of King David. Thus we sing:

♪ “*I have sworn to David my servant, your seed shall reign forever, your throne shall prevail through all generations, my covenant holds true... O David, Melech Yisrael, Chai Chai V'kayam*” ♪ (2 Sam 7:16)

When the Angel of יהוה spoke with *Yosef* in his dream, he referred to him as *Yosef Ben David*: “*But while he was thinking about this, an angel of ADONAI appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Yosef, son of David, do not be afraid to take Miryam home with you as your wife; for what has been conceived in her is from the Ruach HaKodesh. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Yeshua, {which means 'יהוה saves,}' because he will save his people from their sins.' All this happened in order to fulfill what יהוה had said through the prophet, 'The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him 'Immanu-El.' 'God is with us.'*”