

TRUTH & RIGHT

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CURSE OF JEHOIAKIM

"In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 'Take a scroll and write on it all the words which I have spoken to you concerning Israel and concerning Judah, and concerning all the nations, from the day I first spoke to you, from the days of Josiah, even to this day. Perhaps the house of Judah will hear all the calamity which I plan to bring on them, in order that every man will turn from his evil way; then I will forgive their iniquity and their sin,'" (Jer. 36:1-3). When I think of how God patiently dealt with His rebellious children in the closing days approaching their captivity, I can't help but think of the dual nature of the "kindness and severity of God" Paul made reference to in Romans 11:22. As unrepentant and rebellious

as they were, God gave His people one last chance to merely hear His detailed plans for His severe punishment awaiting them, equally demonstrating His abundant kindness in the hopes that merely hearing what horrific fate awaited them would be enough to make them change so He could relent and forgive them instead. The prophet Jeremiah instructed Baruch to take a scroll containing all the words of the LORD concerning His impending judgment with the glimmer of hope that *"perhaps their supplication will come before the LORD, and everyone will turn from his evil way, for great is the anger and the wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people,"* (Jer. 36:7). When the scroll was read in the presence of king Jehoiakim, it only took three or four columns of the words of

the LORD before the king slashed the scroll with a knife and threw it into a fire (*Jer. 36:20-26*). Consequently, God not only proceeded to execute His harsh judgment upon the nation, but also pronounced a curse upon the king preventing any of his descendants from ever sitting on the throne of David (*Jer. 36:27-32*). This curse was echoed again during the brief three month reign of his son, Johoiachin, when he was dethroned and captured in Nebuchadnezzar's siege against Jerusalem. "*As I live,*" declares the LORD, *'even though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were a signet ring on My right hand, yet I would pull you off; and I will give you over into the hand of those who are seeking your life, yes, into the hand of those whom you dread, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans... Write this man down childless, a man who will not prosper in his days; for no man of his descendants will prosper sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah,'"* (*Jer. 22:24-25,30*). This did potentially create a slight problem when the fulfillment of the time had come to bring a physical descendant of David back upon his throne. "*When your days are complete*

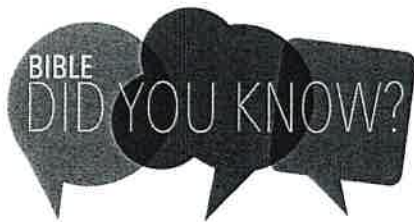
and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever," (*2 Sam. 7:12-13*). Jesus was this future heir who would reclaim the throne. "*'Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David,*" (*Lk. 1:30-32*). "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat one of his descendants on his throne, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ..." (*Acts 2:30-31*). The problem this created is that Joseph, the father of Jesus, was one of Jehoiakim's descendants through Jeconiah (*Mt. 1:12-16*). Joseph's offspring could not claim David's throne because of the curse. If Jesus had been born of Joseph the curse would have been contradicted, thereby Joseph was excluded from being the genetic father of the future king of Israel. But he was betrothed to the woman who would conceive and bring

in the future King. It was impossible to fulfill the requirements of both curse and promise by natural means. One man had to be both heir to and offspring of David, without being the genetic descendant of Jehoiakim. Only a divine solution provided by God through miraculous means of the virgin birth of Jesus could reconcile this problem.

Although Joseph was one of Jehoiakim's offspring through Solomon, Mary was not, as she was a descendant of Nathan, one of David's other sons (Lk. 3:31). God's promise to David was fulfilled because Mary was the biological parent of Jesus. The virgin birth also addressed the curse God had pronounced upon Jehoiakim. Kingship was an inherited right. By Joseph, Jesus inherited a legal claim to the throne of David while at the same time abiding by the curse placed upon Jehoiakim and his descendants as Joseph was not the biological parent of Jesus. *"...and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."* Mary said to the angel, *'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'* The angel answered and said to her, *'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be*

called the Son of God,'" (Lk. 1:33-35). *"'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins,'"* (Mt. 1:20-21).

– Daniel Ruegg



Jesus' crucifixion is prophesied in Psalm 22.
"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?...All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, 'Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because he delights in him'...They pierced my hands and my feet...They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots," Psalm 22:1,7-8,16,18.

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. What was Judas in charge of in the group of twelve disciples?

- a) Food
- b) Visiting Sick
- c) Money
- d) Teaching

2. The rivers Euphrates and Tigris were two boundaries of what site?

- a) The temple
- b) Garden of Eden
- c) Nazareth
- d) Canaan

3. Which man's sister poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair?

- a) Andrew
- b) Simon
- c) James
- d) Lazarus

4. What did Satan offer Jesus if he would worship him?

- a) All the kingdoms of the world
- b) Bread
- c) Steak Knives
- d) Invincibility

5. Who earned a wife by killing 200 Philistines?

- a) Jonathan
- b) David
- c) Saul
- d) Dwight

6. What kind of test did the Ephraimites have to pass to avoid being killed by Jephthah?

- a) Pronunciation
- b) Spelling
- c) Marksmanship
- d) I.Q.

7. Whose home was Jesus visiting when anointed with spikenard?

- a) Blind man
- b) Paralytic
- c) Simon the Pharisee
- d) Simon the leper

8. Which King's life did God extend by 15 years?

- a) Josiah
- b) Solomon
- c) Hezekiah
- d) Jereboam

9. Which prophet, before his wife died, was told by God not to observe Jewish mourning traditions?

- a) Jeremiah
- b) Ezekiel
- c) Joel
- d) Isaiah

10. Who asked Jesus to perform his first recorded miracle?

- a) Leper
- b) Satan
- c) Peter
- d) Mary

- 1) C, Reference: Jn. 13:29
 2) B, Reference: Gen. 2:14
 3) D, Reference: Jn. 12:2-3
 4) A, Reference: Mt. 4:8
 5) B, Reference: 1 Sam. 18:27
 6) A, Reference: Jdg. 12:6
 7) D, Reference: Mk. 14:3
 8) C, Reference: 2 Kgs. 20:6
 9) B, Reference: Ezk. 24:15-18
 10) D, Reference: Jn. 2:1-11