

## The Branch and Root of Jesse

by Wayne Goff

**I**n the world of the Old Testament, “tree” was often a symbol for royalty. See [Ezekiel 17:1ff](#), especially [verses 22-24](#); [Isaiah 2:13](#); [10:18-19](#); [Jeremiah 22:7, 23](#) for examples. The kingly lineage of David was interrupted by the Babylonian captivity, and after the return of the Jewish remnant beginning in 536 B.C., there was never a man on the throne of David in Jerusalem again. However, God had promised David that One would come from the fruit of his loins to sit on His throne to rule in righteousness. These prophecies refer, naturally, to Jesus Christ. Notice some of the prophecies.

### Nebuchadnezzar

When God interrupted Nebuchadnezzar’s reign to humble him with the mind and heart of an animal for a period of time, God promised that He would restore Nebuchadnezzar to his throne. “*And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules*” ([Daniel 4:26](#)). So the symbolism of a stump and roots being left indicating that his kingdom would be restored to him is the same we see in the lineage of David and the kings of Judah.

### Jesus Christ

“There shall come forth *a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots*” ([Isaiah 11:1](#)).

“In that day *the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped*” ([Isaiah 4:2](#)).

“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘That I will raise to David *a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth*’” ([Jeremiah 23:5](#); see [Jer. 33:15](#)).

“Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth *My Servant the BRANCH*” ([Zechariah 3:8](#)).

“Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: “Behold, *the Man whose name is the BRANCH!* From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD”’ ([Zechariah 6:12](#)).

All of these prophecies indicate that Jesus Christ would be raised up to sit on the throne of His father, David, even after a lapse of over 400 years! Certainly the Jews thought that this “Branch” would be an earthly king, and our religious friends who believe in a future thousand year reign of Christ on the earth believe the same. But the true fulfillment of these prophecies came when Jesus Christ was raised up from the dead, ascended to heaven, and sat down on the throne of God in heaven! We are not left to wonder about this interpretation. The apostles on the day of Pentecost confirmed that Jesus was “the Christ” Who would sit on David’s throne ([Acts 2:30](#)). In order to do this, Jesus would have to be resurrected from the dead – something David had also prophesied by inspiration ([Acts 2:31](#)). Jesus was raised up from the dead, and the apostles were all witnesses of the event ([Acts 2:32](#)). Upon His resurrection, Jesus was “exalted to the right hand of God” ([Acts 2:33](#)). “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” ([Acts 2:36](#)). Jesus is Lord with all authority in heaven and on earth ([Matthew 28:18](#)). Jesus is the Christ (anointed One) inasmuch as He is Prophet ([Lk. 24:19](#)), Priest ([Heb. 3:1; 4:14](#)), and King ([1 Tim. 6:14-16](#)). His kingdom is not of this world ([John 18:36](#)), but is a rule in the hearts of people until the end of time ([Lk. 17:21](#)).

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