

*The following sermon was preached at Redemption Baptist Church on Sunday, 14 December 2025. We encourage you to look up the Scriptures that are referenced and see the context for yourself. May the Lord speak to your heart as you study His Word.*

## The Branch of David

Many of you know that I grew up in the country. My parents owned six acres of woods; and every summer, my dad would go back into the woods to cut down a tree (or to find an old tree that was already fallen), so that we could chop a load of firewood for the winter. By the time I was big enough to help my dad and brothers with the wood-cutting, my family had been living on the land for a couple decades; so there were plenty of old, rotting stumps from the trees that we had chopped down over the years.

Now, whenever I went back into the woods to play and explore, or to help with wood-cutting, there was a sight that I often saw: I would see a small, sapling tree springing up in the middle of an old, rotting tree stump. Our woods weren't the only place I would see this, either. As I mentioned last week, my family went, every December, to the Wade and Gatton Nurseries to chop down our Christmas trees; and when we did, we would see the same thing there, too: we would sometimes see a young pine tree springing up in the middle of a rotting pine tree stump. I always thought that was pretty cool. I sometimes wondered if the sapling tree had sprung up from a cone that had grown on that very tree, when it was still alive. If so, it would be somewhat like a family that is dying off from old age, or barrenness, or from a series of tragedies: but then one young, healthy heir rises up to preserve the family name.

Now, if you were here for last week's message, you know where I'm heading with this analogy. In **Isaiah 4:2**, Isaiah prophesied, ***"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious."*** This is one of about half a dozen Old Testament prophecies in which the Lord Jesus Christ is called "the Branch." In this particular verse, He is called ***"the branch of Jehovah,"*** meaning that He is *the Son of Jehovah*—the Son of God! Now, this doesn't mean that Christ was *created* by God. The Bible teaches that the Son of God has ***"neither beginning of days, nor end of life."*** Christ Himself *is* of the Godhead; and as God, He has always existed. What this does mean is that the Son of God *proceeds forth* from the Father eternally, in an eternal "generation." He is distinct from His Father, yet one with Him. He is the *eternal* Son of God. Christ *proceeds forth* from the Father, and obeys His Father, just as an earthly son would obey his earthly father; yet, the Father and the Son are equal in power, glory, and being, and have existed together from eternity.

This is mind-boggling stuff! And yet, ***"the Branch of the LORD"*** is not the only "Branch" title that Christ possesses. Christ is also called ***"the Branch of David."*** This means that Christ is the *Son*, or Descendant, of King David. It means that He also has a *human* nature. It means that Jesus is a Man—an actual, blood descendant of King David (and ultimately, of Adam). ***"The Branch of the LORD"*** is Christ's *divine* title; but ***"the Branch of David"*** is His *human* title.

This morning, I will show you why Christ's title, ***"the Branch of David,"*** is so vitally important. This isn't just dry theology that we're talking about, folks; these truths are *vitally* important for your soul! To become our Saviour, Christ had to take on a human nature, and become one of us: and that is exactly what He did, when He was born into the family line of a man named David, the son of Jesse. That is what we will be talking about this morning, in this message which I've entitled ***The Branch of David.***

**Read Isaiah 11:1-9.**

## I. The promise that God made to David

In **Isaiah 11:1**, we find another wonderful “Branch” prophecy. Isaiah says that a “**rod**” (meaning “a young shoot,” or a “twig”) would come forth from the “**stem**” of Jesse. The word “**stem**” simply means “stump”—an old, decaying stump of a tree that has fallen down. And whom does this “stump” represent? It represents Jesse, the father of King David. Isaiah is telling us that this young “**twig**,” whoever he is, would be a descendant of Jesse, and of King David.

Now, just to give extra emphasis, Isaiah puts it another way. He goes on to say that “**a Branch shall grow out of his roots.**” Once again, we come to that Hebrew word *tsemach*, which was used in **Isaiah 4:2**. Remember, the word *tsemach* refers to any part of a tree—from a young sapling, to a trunk, to a bough, to a whole tree. The idea is that this “Branch” would become a “tree” in His own right. Whoever this particular descendant of Jesse is, he would be someone important, because He would rise up from the rotting “tree stump” of the family of Jesse and David. It is as though the family of David had fallen into decay: yet, this “**Branch**,” whoever He is, would spring up to restore the family name of King David—and the *throne* of David.

My friends, I am here to declare to you that Jesus of Nazareth is that Branch! This “Branch” is no ordinary man: He is the Messiah—the God-Man! Look at what Isaiah says in **verse 2**. He says that the “**spirit of the LORD**” would be upon this Branch. Now, we know that the Spirit was often “**upon**” the prophets in Old Testament times, whenever God gave them revelation; however, the Spirit of God was not “upon” *Jesus* in the same sense that He was upon the prophets of old. In **John chapter 3**, John the Baptist said that God “**giveth not the Spirit by measure**” unto Jesus. In other words, the Spirit didn’t merely *come upon* Christ at certain times, to give Him *some* of God’s power, or *some of* God’s revelation, as He did with the prophets: no, Jesus possesses *all* the power and qualities of the Holy Spirit, all the time. How is this so? Because Christ Himself *is* God. He is equal to the Holy Spirit in essence, power, being, and authority, and shares all His attributes. He is as full of the Spirit as He can be, because He is one with the Holy Spirit!

Now, you’ll notice that there are *seven* “spirits” mentioned in **verse 2**. These “spirits” are not seven individual “spirit beings”: they are the seven *divine attributes* of the Holy Spirit. Now, do you know what these “seven spirits” bring to mind? This reminds me of the Menorah—the seven-branched lampstand that stood in the Holy Place of the Temple. This also reminds me of several passages in **Revelation**. In **Revelation 1:4**, John refers to the Holy Spirit as the “**seven Spirits**” which are “before God’s throne”; and elsewhere in **Revelation**, John reports that he saw “**seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**” Apparently, there is an actual seven-branched lampstand before God’s throne in Heaven, which burns all the time; and this lampstand represents the Holy Spirit of God, and His seven holy attributes.

But here’s the rub: every one of these seven attributes of the Holy Spirit is *also* possessed by Jesus Christ, without measure! How so? Because He is a Member of the Godhead, and is one with the Holy Spirit! That is why Christ will be able to rule the world one day with perfect understanding. As Isaiah said, He will “**not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.**” In other words, Christ’s understanding won’t be limited to what He sees and hears on the outside, as *we* are. The Messiah is perfect in wisdom; and during the future 1,000-year Kingdom, He will be able to look into the heart, and discern real

thoughts and motives, as He judges the people and nations of the world. Not only that, but He is perfect in might. He will even have the power to remove the enmity in the animal Kingdom! As we saw in **verses 6-8**, the wolf will lie down with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the baby goat, and the lion with the baby calf; and a little child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze together; lions will eat grass instead of meat; and children will play with asp. What ordinary man could do these things? None!

My friends, these seven qualities of the Spirit belong to none other than the God-Man, Jesus Christ. For one thing, the very first "spirit" that is mentioned in **verse 2** is the "***spirit of the LORD*** (or "Jehovah")." Christ Himself *is* Jehovah. He is God. None of us will ever come close to having Christ's full wisdom or understanding, because we are not God. Yet, we who are saved *have* been made "***partakers of the divine nature***," and "***partakers of his holiness***." Because Christ lives in us, He *can* give us the measure of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the LORD, that we need, so that we can live our lives for God.

By the way, did you notice how many of these seven qualities have to do with *knowing*? One of these qualities is ***knowledge***; but there is also ***wisdom***, which is the *application* of knowledge. There is also ***understanding***, which is the right *perception* of truth. Then, there is the spirit of ***counsel***—which, of course, demands *knowledge and wisdom*, so that you can impart it to others. In short, four of these seven qualities have to do with Christ's perfect wisdom and knowledge. Because Jesus Christ has perfect knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, He is able to give *us* perfect counsel, too.

Christian, all the wisdom that you need to live your life victoriously, and not in defeat, is available to you. Because you have been placed "***in Christ***," you have access to all the riches of His grace. All you need is to *ask* for it in prayer (then *submit* to it). Jesus Christ *is* Wisdom. His counsel is perfect; and it is freely available to you in the Word of God. In **2 Peter 1:3**, Peter says that Christ's "***divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness***." In other words, everything you need to know about how to live your life is right here in this Book. Not only that, but Christ has given you the Holy Spirit to live inside you. The Spirit illumines the truth of God's Word, so that you can understand it rightly, and apply it to your life. Christian, you don't have to wander around in the dark, and be unsure as to whether you are heading in the right direction. All the wisdom you need is in Christ! Now, perhaps you're not even a child of God. If so, you don't even have *access* to God's wisdom, because you don't have the Holy Spirit living in you. Repent of your sin, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; and *He* will give you His Spirit to live in you. He can give you knowledge, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and the fear of the LORD.

Now, with this in mind, let's get back to Christ's *human* nature. Jesus Christ is God; but He is also Man: and particularly, He is a descendant of David. This "Branch," Isaiah said, would spring up from the "***stem of Jesse***." What is he talking about? Well, let's go back to the book of **2 Samuel**, and take a look at a promise that God gave to King David.

**Read 2 Samuel 7:1-17.**

King David wanted to build a Temple for the Lord, to replace the tent in which the people of Israel had been worshipping God for 600 years; but God informed David that it wasn't His will for him to build the Temple. Instead, God would appoint one of David's *sons* to build a Temple for Him. Years later, this son was born to David; and his name was Solomon. But that's not all that God said. God also revealed that David's house, his kingdom, and his

throne, would be established forever. But even that wasn't all. God later revealed, in **Psalm 89**, through the prophecy of a man named Ethan the Ezrahite, that David would be Jehovah's "**firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth**"—and that His seed (a particular Descendant of David's) would "**endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.**"

Now, David certainly did *not* meet *those* qualifications. Neither did his son Solomon (though Solomon did build the Temple). Neither did Hezekiah, or Josiah, or any of the other godly kings that descended from David. None of them ever ascended to the place of being "**higher than the kings of the earth.**" The farthest that the kingdom of Israel ever extended was to the Euphrates River; but none of David's descendants ever came close to ruling over all kingdoms of the earth. And the throne certainly did not "**endure for ever**" for any of these kings. Who, then, was this one whom Isaiah foretold? Who is this one who would be higher than all the kings of the earth, and whose throne would endure forever? His name is **the Lord Jesus Christ!**

Now, perhaps you're wondering in what sense God's promise to David is being fulfilled. After all, there is no "throne of David" today. The dynasty of King David ceased a long time ago. We will get to that question in a minute. However, there is another question that needs to be addressed: **How could Christ be a descendant of David, yet not be a sinner?** In **Isaiah 11**, Isaiah portrayed the Messiah as being absolutely righteous, and as making absolutely no errors in His judgment. Only a sinless (and omniscient) man could fit *that* description. Neither David, nor Solomon, nor any other descendant of David, ever fit that bill. Even the godliest kings of Israel fell into sin and pride, and made some huge blunders in judgment. No descendant of David, even to this day, could fit the requirement of utter sinlessness, because the Bible says that "**All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.**" All of us are sinners by birth, because we have all inherited a sin nature from our father Adam.

All but *one*, that is! There is one Man who did *not* inherit a sin nature; and that Man happens to be the righteous "**Branch of David**" that we keep reading about in these Scriptures. The Lord Jesus Christ is that Man; and here is how He was able to be born without sin. Let's look at yet another prophecy of the Messiah, in **Isaiah**.

### **Read Isaiah 7:1-14.**

In this passage, the LORD was speaking to one of the kings of Judah, through the prophet Isaiah. The time was about 740 years before Christ's birth; and the king's name was **Ahaz**. Now, Ahaz was not a true believer in Jehovah. He went through the motions of worshipping the God of Israel; but he worshipped idols, too. (He mixed elements of pagan worship with elements of Jehovah worship, and created his own religion, as many people do today.) He did much evil in the sight of God. Yet, despite Ahaz's wickedness, God mercifully allowed him to remain as king of Judah. Now, as you can see, Ahaz had a lot on his mind: he was facing a joint invasion from the King of Northern Israel, and the King of Syria. Yet, God promised Ahaz that he would *not* be overthrown in this invasion. In fact, God invited Ahaz to ask for any miraculous sign in heaven or in earth, to confirm that what He had said was true. However, Ahaz, being the unbeliever that he was, refused to ask for a sign. He casually said, "**I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD.**"

Now, since Ahaz refused to ask for a sign, God said, "O.K., Ahaz. Since *you* won't ask for a sign, *I myself* will give *all* of you a sign. This sign won't be to *you personally*, Ahaz: it will be to the '**house of David.**' In the future, some chosen members of the family of David *will* see

this sign; and here's what the sign will be: ***'Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.'***” Immanuel means “God with us”—thus showing that Jesus is God!

*This*, my friends, is how Jesus was born from the line of David, yet was without sin! Jesus didn't have a human father: instead, God created a holy seed, and planted it in the womb of a virgin named Mary. If Jesus *had* had a human father, he would have been a sinner like everyone else, because **Romans 5:12** says that sin entered the world not through Eve, but through *Adam*. Mary herself was a sinner; but she didn't pass on her sin nature to Jesus, because the sin nature is passed on through the *man*, not the woman. The seed that God planted in Mary's womb was holy, and sinless, and from Heaven; yet, at the same time, Jesus was a true descendant of Adam, because his *mother* was a descendant of Adam. Not only that, but Jesus was a true descendant of David, because *Mary* was a descendant of King David! In **Luke 3**, the Bible gives us Mary's family genealogy, starting with her father Heli, and going all the way back to Adam; and in **verse 31**, we are told that **King David** was one of Mary's direct ancestors. Mary wasn't a descendant of David through the *royal* line of Solomon; but she *was* a descendant of David through David's son, **Nathan**.

My friends, God is able to keep His promises! He promised David that one of his descendants would be the Messiah; yet, at the same time, God made a way for this Descendant of David to be the sinless Son of God! Yet, even this isn't the whole story. We also need to talk about...

## II. The pause in God's promise to David

**(Read Isaiah 11:1 again.)** We've seen that Jesus is the Branch from the “stump” of Jesse. Yet, what does the word “stump” imply? It implies that a tree has either been *chopped* down, or has *fallen* down from rot and decay. So, what is Isaiah saying? He is saying that the royal family of King David would be “cut down.” The descendants of David didn't cease to exist, of course; but the *dynasty* of King David ceased. When and how did this happen?

It happened about 400 years after David's death, in the year **597 B.C.** It was in this year that the last legitimate king in the line of David was deposed. This king's name was **Jehoiachin** (or **Jeconiah**). Now, at the time, Jeconiah was only eighteen years old, and he had reigned as king for only three months; but his youth was no excuse for his wickedness. Jeconiah had worshipped idols, just as his father Jehoiakim had done (and as most of the people of Judah had done); and God's mercy had finally come to an end. God allowed **Nebuchadnezzar**, the king of Babylon, to invade Judah, and to take away the best and brightest citizens of Judah to Babylon, as slaves; and Jeconiah himself was taken away captive with them. Now, God did allow Jeconiah's uncle, Zedekiah, to reign over Judah for 11 more years. However, Zedekiah wasn't in the line of Messiah; *Jeconiah* was. As for Zedekiah, *he* was also deposed, and taken away captive to Babylon, 11 years later, in 586 B.C.; and all his sons were slain. At that point, the dynasty of King David came to an abrupt end.

Now, God had promised, in **Jeremiah 33:17**, that ***“David shall never want (or “lack”) a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel.”*** But how could God keep that promise, now that the royal line of David had been cut down? From this point onward, Israel would be ruled by Gentile kings, for many centuries. To this day, Israel *still* has no king of their own. How could God keep His promise? Well, the answer is simple: Israel never again had *their own* king. No Jew, from any other family lineage, ever reestablished the throne of Israel. The throne of Israel has been left unoccupied for more than 2,400 years; and it will not be sat upon

again until the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this earth, and sets up His Kingdom. In **Ezekiel 21:27**, the LORD promised that He would “***Overturn, overturn, overturn***” the royal crown of Judah, “***and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him.***” Jesus Christ is that one “***whose right it is.***” He is the King of Israel; and someday, He *will* return to claim His throne.

Now, there is one more seeming problem with Jesus’ qualification for the throne of David. You see, there was a vow that God, in his righteous anger, had made in regard to Jeconiah; and this vow *seemed* to make it impossible for God to keep His word. Let’s take a look at it.

#### **Read Jeremiah 22:24-30.**

The Bible doesn’t tell us much about Jeconiah; but he must have been a very vile young man. He was so wicked, that God solemnly vowed that no “***seed***” (no biological descendant) of Jeconiah’s would ever sit upon the throne of David. Now, when God commanded to write Jeconiah “***childless***,” He didn’t mean that Jeconiah would have no children. (We know, for a fact, that he did have children, because the Bible records their names in several places.) What God was saying is that it would be *as if* Jeconiah had no children, because none of his biological descendants would ever sit on the throne of Judah.

Now, it would appear that God, by making this vow, was making it impossible to keep His own covenant with David. God had promised David that his “seed,” Solomon, would build the Temple, and that from his kingly line would come the Messiah, who would sit upon the throne of David, higher than all the kings of the earth. Yet, the dynasty of David was now cut down to the ground. How could God perform His promise to David now? Once again, the answer is: **the virgin birth of Christ**. Remember, Jesus received the *blood* of King David through His mother Mary; yet, at the same time, Jesus has the *legal* claim to the *royal* line of David. He has this claim because He is the *son by adoption* of Joseph. You see, Mary’s husband, Joseph, just happens to have been a direct descendant of Jeconiah, the last legitimate king in the line of David! At just the right time, God brought two descendants of David together in marriage, so that Mary could give Jesus the *blood* of David, and so that Joseph could give him the *legal* right to the *throne* of David.

#### **Read Matthew 1:1-25.**

Brethren, there are times in history—and in our own lives—when it appears that God cannot keep His promises. But you may rest assured that He will *always* come through! He *always* keeps His word—whether for blessing, or for chastisement. When the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear a son, even though she was a virgin, the last thing he said to her was, “***For with God nothing shall be impossible.***” Christian, you can bank on that! All God’s promises are true; and even when everything looks dark and uncertain in your life, you can trust in Him! Believe His word, Christian! “***If ye will not believe, ye shall not be established.***”

### **III. The performance of God’s promise to David**

#### **Read Zechariah 6:9-15.**

For many centuries, no one has sat upon the throne of David; but one day, God *will* fulfil His promise to David. When Jesus of Nazareth returns to earth, and sits down on His throne in Jerusalem, God's promise to David will finally be fulfilled.

Now, what does this have to do with what we've just read in this passage? It has *everything* to do with it! In a minute, I will explain; but first, let's look at the backdrop. The time of this event was about **520 B.C.**; and the place was **Jerusalem**. For fifteen years, the Jews had been back in the land of Israel, after their return from their captivity in Babylon; and now, the Temple, which had been sitting in ruins for 66 years, was about to be rebuilt. However, another very important event was happening here: God was ordaining a man named **Joshua** to be the high priest of Israel. For 66 years, the Levites, and the priestly families, had kept good records of their family line; and they knew that Joshua was the legitimate high priest. What we are reading about here is the ceremony when Joshua was *crowned* as high priest. God commanded the prophet Zechariah to take a golden crown, and to put it on Joshua's head, to signify that he was the high priest of Israel.

Yet, you'll notice that Zechariah didn't just put *one* crown on Joshua's head; he put *two* crowns on his head. He then addressed Joshua as **"The Branch"**; and he said that this man, **"The Branch,"** would grow up out of his place, and would build the Temple of the LORD. Furthermore, Zechariah said that this man, The Branch, would **"rule"** upon His throne (as king), and would be a *priest* on His throne at the same time.

Now, Joshua obviously did not (and *could not*) do these things that Zechariah had just attributed to him. God *never* permitted any king to intrude into the office of priest. The priests were to be *only* from the tribe of Levi. Likewise, no priest could intrude into the office of king. Yet, here was God saying that this man, whom He called **"The Branch,"** would rule as both priest *and* king. How could this be?

The answer is: Joshua wasn't the man that God was really talking about. God was looking *beyond* Joshua to *another* Man, who *will* sit as both King and Priest in the future. By the way, you'll notice that after the ceremony was over, those crowns were placed in the Temple, as a **"memorial"**; and Joshua never wore them again. Why? Because God was not, in fact, making Joshua the king of Israel. Apart from ordaining Joshua as the next high priest of Israel, the main purpose of this ceremony was to point to the coming Messiah. The man who will *actually* sit as King and Priest one day is the Lord Jesus Christ; and Joshua had the privilege of being a prophetic picture of Him. By the way, guess what the name "Joshua" means? It means "Jehovah is salvation." And what does *Jesus'* name mean? It means "salvation." Coincidence? No, it is not! One day, Jesus will return, and sit down on His throne as King and Priest, and will rebuild the Temple. Then, for 1,000 years, all the world will travel to Jerusalem to worship the Son of David, and to learn His ways.

Before we close this morning, there are a couple more "Branch of David" prophecies that I would like to read. They are very similar to each other; but there is one important difference that I would like to point out.

**Read Jeremiah 23:5-6 and 33:15-17.**

In both these passages, we are told that God would one day raise up a **"righteous Branch"** unto David. We are told that this Branch will **"execute judgment and justice in the earth."** We are also told that the Jewish people will be **"saved,"** and will **"dwell safely"** in the land.

(All these things will happen during the 1,000-year Kingdom.) But then, Jeremiah says two slightly different things. In **chapter 23** he says, “*And this is the name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*” Yet, in **chapter 33** Jeremiah says, “*And this is the name wherewith she shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.*” Why does one chapter say “*he*,” and the other say “*she*”? Because in **chapter 23**, the pronoun “*he*” is referring to Christ; but in **chapter 33**, the word “*she*” is referring to “*Jerusalem.*” Now, think about that. On the one hand, *Christ* is called “The LORD our Righteousness” because He is the LORD; and He is also “our Righteousness.” It is *His* righteousness by which we are saved, and not our own. Yet, at the same time, the entire city of Jerusalem will be called “*The LORD our Righteousness.*” At the beginning of the 1,000-year Kingdom, all the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be called by Christ’s name, because every one of them will personally know Him. They will *all* be saved by faith in Jesus, and they will *all* have His imputed righteousness! By the way, another name that Jerusalem will be called by during the Millennium is *Jehovah Shammah*, which means “**The LORD is there.**” Christ Himself will sit on His throne in His Temple, right there in the midst of Jerusalem; and all Jerusalem will be accepted by God, because they will all have Christ’s righteousness.

My friends, the same that will be true of the city of Jerusalem when the Millennial Kingdom begins is true for every Bible-preaching church today. Whenever the redeemed, blood-bought members of this church meet together, Christ is in our midst; and He is our Righteousness. We are His spiritual Temple; and His presence is “there” whenever we meet. The same is true for every individual believer, as well. If you are saved, your body is the “Temple of the Holy Ghost”; and every day, Christ sits on the throne of your heart, as King and Priest. The question is, “Are you letting His Word *rule* in your heart?” You aren’t a robot, Christian. You aren’t “pre-programmed” to obey your Master. You must continually submit your will to Christ, and let Him have His way in your life.

**Conclusion:** As we close this morning, I would ask: “Do *you* know the Branch of David?” Christ came down into this world and became a member of our race, so that He could die on the cross, and pay the penalty for our sins. He has paid the penalty of all *your* sins, in full; and He wants to live in your heart. However, you must respond to His call, and let Him into your heart. How do you do this, you ask? By repenting of your sin, and *believing* on Him! Stop thinking that you’re a good person, because you’re not. Trust in *Christ*, and in *His* righteousness. The Bible says, “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”