

## Zion's King Shall Reign Victorious! - 16

The fall of Jerusalem, after the Babylonians overthrew David's kingdom, became a test of faith among those Israelites who awaited the fulfilment of God's promise to David, "But You have cast off and abhorred, You have been furious with Your anointed."

- 39 "You have renounced the covenant of Your servant [or so it seemed]; You have profaned his crown by casting it to the ground...44 You have made his glory cease, And cast his throne down to the ground...46 How long, Lord? Will You hide Yourself forever? Will Your wrath burn like fire?" - Psalm 89:38-46.

By the time of Jesus, more than six hundred years had passed since David's dynasty was overthrown, yet there were still those who like "Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member...was himself waiting for the kingdom of God" - Mark 15:43.

Joseph would know and believe the words of Psalm 89:34 "MY COVENANT I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. 35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: 36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; 37 It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky."

But how was this covenant going to be fulfilled? "I will be his Father, and he shall be My son" - 2 Samuel 7:14. We have seen how the first clause in this verse was literally fulfilled in the birth of Jesus to Mary while she was still a virgin - this was the fulfilment of Isaiah 7:14 "...the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

The gospel record says this is so in Matthew 1:22, "Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 'Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us'."

But how could the second clause in 2 Samuel 7:14 be fulfilled by Jesus, which says - "If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men."

Since the character of Jesus is described in Hebrews 7:26 as "...holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners..." and in 1 John 3:5, "And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin," this means that Jesus did not "commit iniquity".

The occurrence of figurative speech, such as metonymy, and ellipsis, are a feature of Scripture, which readers discover is not written like a dry textbook, but with the beauty, variety and force of an artistic production. An ellipsis is an omission from a sentence of one or more words which would be needed to complete the sense, but which would be understood by an informed reader.

For example, Ezekiel, foretelling the return of scattered Israel back to the Promised Land, declared, "[the promised seed of] David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd...25 ...and [the promised seed of] My servant David shall be their prince forever" - Ezekiel 37:24-25.

The terms of God's Covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7 are that David's throne will be occupied by his seed, and that David would see it happen, said God through the prophet Nathan to David.