

# Luke 3:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan,  
which was the son of Mattatha, which was the son of Nathan,  
which was the son of David,

## Analysis

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**Which was the son of Melea, which was the son of Menan, which was the son of Mattatha, which was the son of Nathan, which was the son of David**—Here the genealogy reaches David (Δαυίδ), the critical juncture for messianic claims. However, Luke traces through **Nathan** (Ναθάν), David's son by Bathsheba (2 Samuel 5:14; 1 Chronicles 3:5), not through Solomon who received the throne.

This genealogical choice is theologically profound: Solomon's line received the promise of eternal dynasty (2 Samuel 7:12-16) but fell under God's judgment through Jeconiah (Jeremiah 22:30—"no man of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David"). By tracing through Nathan (Mary's lineage) while maintaining legal connection to Solomon's line through Joseph's adoption, Jesus fulfills Davidic prophecy without inheriting the curse. The Greek *huios* (son) could mean biological son, legal heir, or descendant—allowing both genealogies to be true simultaneously.

## Historical Context

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David reigned 1010-970 BC, establishing Jerusalem as capital and receiving God's covenant promise of eternal dynasty. His son Nathan is mentioned in Scripture primarily in genealogical records, contrasting with Solomon's prominence—yet God's redemptive plan worked through the obscure line, not just the famous one.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's use of Nathan's obscure line rather than Solomon's royal line demonstrate His values contrasting worldly success?
2. What does the genealogical solution to Jeconiah's curse teach about God's ability to fulfill promises despite apparent impossibilities?
3. How should Jesus's descent from David through the 'lesser' line inform your understanding of God's kingdom priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῦ G3588	Μελεὰ Which was the son of Melea G3190	τοῦ G3588	Μαϊνάν which was the son of Menan G3104	τοῦ G3588
	Ματταθὰ which was the son of Mattatha G3160	τοῦ G3588	Ναθάν, which was the son of Nathan G3481	τοῦ G3588
	Δαβὶδ, which was the son of David G1138			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 3:5** (Parallel theme): And these were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shimea, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon, four, of Bath-shua the daughter of Ammiel:

**2 Samuel 5:14** (Parallel theme): And these be the names of those that were born unto him in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, and Nathan, and Solomon,

**1 Chronicles 14:4** (Parallel theme): Now these are the names of his children which he had in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon,

**Zechariah 12:12** (References David): And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;

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