

Romans 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

Analysis

Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

The content of the gospel is not a philosophy or ethical system but a Person: Iēsou Christou tou kuriou hēmōn (Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν, 'Jesus Christ our Lord'). Each title carries theological weight: Iēsous (Joshua) means 'Yahweh saves,' Christos is the Greek equivalent of Hebrew Mashiach (Messiah/Anointed One), and kurios (Lord) is the LXX translation of the divine name YHWH—a staggering claim of deity.

The participle genomenou (γενομένου, 'was made/became') paired with ek spermatos David (ἐκ σπέρματος Δαβίδ, 'from the seed of David') affirms Jesus's true humanity and Messianic lineage. The phrase kata sarka (κατὰ σάρκα, 'according to the flesh') indicates His human nature, the incarnation of the eternal Son. This fulfills the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-16) that promised an eternal king from David's line. Matthew 1 and Luke 3 meticulously trace Jesus's genealogy through David. Paul's affirmation counters early Gnostic tendencies to deny Christ's full humanity—the gospel requires both true God and true man.

Historical Context

The Davidic lineage was crucial for Jewish Messianic expectations. Prophets foretold that the Messiah would come from David's house (Isaiah 9:7; 11:1;

Jeremiah 23:5). When Jesus entered Jerusalem, crowds shouted 'Son of David' (Matthew 21:9), recognizing His Messianic credentials. For Roman readers, understanding Jewish Messianic hopes was essential to grasp why Jesus's death and resurrection were 'good news' and not merely the execution of another failed revolutionary.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's true humanity (κατὰ σάρκα) as the seed of David assure you that He understands your human struggles and temptations?
2. What Old Testament promises to David does Jesus fulfill, and how does this demonstrate God's covenant faithfulness?
3. Why is it essential that the gospel concerns a historical Person (Jesus of Nazareth) rather than timeless truths or principles?

Interlinear Text

περὶ	τοῦ	υἱοῦ	αὐτοῦ	τοῦ	γενομένου	ἐκ	σπέρματος
Concerning	which	Son	G846	which	was made	of	the seed
G4012	G3588	G5207		G3588	G1096	G1537	G4690
Δαβὶδ	κατὰ	σάρκα					
of David	according	to the flesh					
G1138	G2596	G4561					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 1:1 (References Jesus): The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Galatians 4:4 (Creation): But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

John 1:14 (Creation): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Amos 9:11 (References David): In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

Psalms 2:7 (References Lord): I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

John 1:49 (Parallel theme): Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

John 10:30 (Parallel theme): I and my Father are one.

John 20:28 (References Lord): And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Genesis 3:15 (Parallel theme): And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (References Jesus): And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.