

Note in review the word HEBEL (הֶבֶל) – interesting how when Israel pursued HEBEL or *vapor* they became HEBEL or vapor.

When the believer pursues the hebel of the world, he becomes occupied with those things.

- Vanity הֶבֶל HEBEL - Vapor
 - Things that dissipate
 - The steam that rolls off boiling water

The pursuit of VANITY will leave the Christian unfulfilled in his life because the things of the world fade away.

A frantic search for happiness!

The believer who pursues his relationship with the Lord becomes a pillar in the temple of God. One that is immovable; one that will always be there.

God's promises made to Abraham & David are Progressively Revealed –

Genesis 12:3

(3) And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Genesis 22:18

(18) "In your **seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

- Seed זֶרַע ZERA
 - Physical progeny

2 Samuel 7:12-13

(12) "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your **descendant** (seed זֶרַע ZERA) after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

(13) "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Genesis 3:15

(15) And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your **seed** and her **seed**...

An interesting picture of what will happen on the cross:

...He shall **bruise** you on the head, and you shall **bruise** him on the heel."

- Bruise שָׁחַף SHUPH - To crush

Progressive Revelation – God reveals Himself to man over a period of time through deposits of propositional revelation. Illustration - "seed" in Gene. 3:15 becomes very clear as the revelation of the "seed" progresses from the fall to Abraham and David.

Despite sin in the Royal line and despite Satan's attempts to wipe out the Royal line (Athaliah), the line of Christ continues.

*Note the **Progressive Revelation** of how things become clear as the development of "seed" began in the judgment of Satan at the Fall and progressed in the promises of God to Abraham and David.*

Satan's work led to the fall of man and the introduction of sin into the human race.

Sin had to be dealt with because the righteousness of God demands that sin be judged by the justice of God.

As the "seed" is progressively revealed in Scripture, one realizes that the promised seed is Jesus Christ.

Therefore, this "Seed" would deal with the sin issue (by crushing the head of the one who first sinned– Satan).

- Matthew's genealogy starts with Abraham (Father of the Jewish Race).
- Luke's traces back to Adam (Father of the Human Race).
- Matthew's genealogy is a tribute to the faithfulness of God despite the faithlessness of man.
- Therefore, God's promises to Abraham & David are based on His divine integrity, faithfulness and ability to keep the promises.
- Despite the lack of integrity, faithlessness, and inability of the all the kings in the royal line, the believer is awestruck with the fulfillment of the promised seed when he reads in Matthew 1:1, *Jesus, the Christ*. A wonderful testimony to the sovereignty of God as He will accomplish that which He decreed. God in His sovereign omniscience accomplished this without violating the volition of man.
- Knowing this gives meaning to Satan's attempts to infiltrate the line (Gen 6) or to halt the line (Athahlia)– in order to annul the promises of God.
- But once the "seed" of the woman – Jesus Christ – crushed the head of the serpent on the cross, Satan has adopted a new strategy to attack and destroy those who are in Christ as well as destroy the Jewish Race.
- Satan loves to see the believer pursue HEBEL – the vapors of life - instead of being a pillar in God's eternal temple.
- The heritage of the believer is doing what God would have him do, going where God would have him go and being who God wants him to be.

Despite the perpetuation of sin in the line, God puts an abrupt halt to it in the promised Seed, Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

Coniah aka Jeconiah aka Jehoiachin

Matthew 1:12

(12) After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.

Note: 2 Kings 25:27-30 communicated what happened to Jeconiah *aka* Jehoiachin.

- He lived out his days in Babylonian captivity.
- He was afforded some amount of liberty by the Babylonian king
 - He was released from prison
 - Provided clothes and an allowance
 - BUT he was never allowed to return to Judah.
- According to 1 Chron 3:17 he had 7 sons.

1 Chronicles 3:17-19

(17) The sons of Jeconiah, the prisoner, were **Shealtiel** his son,

(18) and **Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama** and **Nedabiah**.

(19) The sons of Pedaiah were Zerubbabel and Shimei. And the sons of Zerubbabel were Meshullam and Hananiah, and Shelomith was their sister;

Jeremiah 22:24-30

(24) "As I live," declares the LORD, "even though Coniah (*aka* Jeconiah *aka* Jehoiachin) the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were a **signet ring** on My right hand, yet I would pull you off (an indication that he is worthless);

(25) and I will give you over into the hand of those who are seeking your life, yes, into the hand of those whom you dread, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans (prophesied by Jeremiah earlier).

(26) "I will hurl you and your mother, who bore you into another country where you were not born, and there you will die (and this did come to pass).

(27) "But as for the land to which they desire to return (Judah), they will not return to it.

(28) "Is this man Coniah a despised, shattered jar? Or is he an undesirable vessel? Why have he and his descendants been hurled out and cast into a land that they had not known?"

SIGNET RING - an important piece of jewelry in the ancient world used to conduct business and sign contacts.

(29) "O land, land, land, Hear the word of the LORD!

(30) "Thus says the LORD, (Coniah curse!)"

...Write this man down childless ... (considered childless)

... A man who will not prosper in his days ...

... for no man of his descendants will prosper sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah."

2 Chronicles 36:22-23

(22) Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia--in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah--the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

(23) "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up (to Jerusalem)!'"

Jeconiah's father was cursed as well

Jeremiah 36:30-31

(30) "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah, "He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night.

(31) "I will also punish him and his descendants and his servants for their iniquity, and I will bring on them and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the men of Judah all the calamity that I have declared to them--but they did not listen.""

- Did anyone of Jehoiakim's sons sit on the throne?
 - Yes- Jeconiah took the throne for 3 months (but note that he did not prosper on the throne).
 - Then what happened? He was removed and his uncle, **Zedekiah** took the throne.

Josiah

- He does right in the sight of the Lord.
- Throughout Josiah's reign Judah did not turn from following the Lord.
- The people followed his lead!

BUT - - He makes a mistake -

- The king of Egypt moves his forces through Judah to help the Assyrians against the Babylonians at Carchemish (west of Haran).
- Josiah attempts to help the Babylonians by setting up a delaying action at Megiddo.
- The King of Egypt asked Josiah to stay out of the way.
- It was God's will for Josiah to stay out of the way.
- Josiah refused to listen and was mortally wounded in battle at Megiddo.
- Returned to Jerusalem in a chariot where he dies from arrow wounds.

Josiah has 4 sons:

- Johanan
- Jehoiakim
- Zedekiah
- Shallum *aka* Jehoahaz *aka* Jehoaz

Jehoaz takes the throne 1st

- Does evil in the sight of the Lord
- Deported to Egypt where he dies

Jehoiakim takes the throne

- He does evil in the sight of the Lord

- Cursed: Jer. 36:30-31
 - (30) Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah, “He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. (A dishonorable burial).
- He does have a son – Jehoiachin *aka* Jeconiah *aka* Coniah

Jeconiah

- Does evil in the sight of the Lord
 - Cursed: Jer. 22:24-30
 - v. 30 ‘Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; for no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.’ ”
 - He is removed after 3 months
 - Lives out his life as a Babylonian captive
- “Write this man down childless” – indicates that Jeconiah was to be regarded as childless and his descendants were not to prosper sitting on the throne of David.

He had children according to **1 Chronicles 3:17-18**

(17) The sons of Jeconiah, the prisoner, were Shealtiel his son,

(18) and Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama and Nedabiah.

- Did any of those sons prosper sitting on the throne? NO
- His uncle Zedekiah checked that
 - He was the last king of Judah

We are tracing Matthew’s genealogy which emphasizes Jesus legal right to the throne.

Shealtiel – a conflict of fathers?

Matthew 1:12

(12) After the deportation to Babylon: **Jeconiah** became the father of **Shealtiel**, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.

Luke 3:27

(27) The son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of **Shealtiel**, the son of Neri,

1 Chronicles 3:17

(17) The sons of Jeconiah, the prisoner, were **Shealtiel** his son,

So what happened?

- Neri died in Babylonian captivity and Jeconiah inherited or adopted his sons.
- Therefore, Shealtiel was not Jeconiah’s physical son, BUT his legal son (emphasis of Matthew & 1 Chron passages).
- This fulfills the prophecy of Coniah’s curse while upholding Jesus legal right to the throne.
- Jeconiah’s sons are still under the curse because they are legal sons.

Shealtiel has a son by the name of Zerubbabel – another conflict?

1 Chronicles 3:19

(19) The sons of Pedaiah were **Zerubbabel** and **Shimei**. And the sons of Zerubbabel were Meshullam and Hananiah, and Shelomith was their sister;

- Shealtiel died before his wife bore him a son.

- His brother, Pedaiiah, fulfilled the responsibility of levirate to raise up a son for his brother.
- Reflected in the 1 Chron. 3:19 passage.
- That son was Zerubbabel – legal under Jewish law.
- That is why Shealtiel is listed as the father of Zerubbabel in Matt 1:12.
- As legal descendent of Jeconiah, he falls under the curse.

But – they are still in captivity.

- Cyrus king of Persia conquers the Babylonians in 539 BC.
- All Judean captives are now under the reign of Cyrus.
- There is a change of command in world powers at this time in History.

2 Chronicles 36:22-23

(22) Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia--in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah--the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying,

(23) "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up (to Jerusalem)!'"

- Judean captives are given permission to return to Judah.
- Zerubbabel is made governor of Judah (not king).
- Zerubbabel leads a group of 42,360 Jews to Jerusalem (closer to 50,000 when you consider servants and all that accompany these Jews). Chapter 2

God's grace is displayed amongst the discipline of this line!

Ezra 3:1-7

(1) Now when the seventh month came, and the sons of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered together as one man to Jerusalem.

(2) Then Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers the priests and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and his brothers arose and built the altar of the God of Israel to offer burnt offerings on it, as it is written in the Law of Moses, the man of God.

**Mosaic Law reinstated.
Spiritual life was put in place before the temporal.**

(3) So they set up the altar on its foundation, for they were terrified because of the peoples of the lands; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, burnt offerings morning and evening.

(4) They celebrated the Feast of Booths, as it is written, and offered the fixed number of burnt offerings daily, according to the ordinance, as each day required;

(5) and afterward there was a continual burnt offering, also for the new moons and for all the fixed festivals of the LORD that were consecrated, and from everyone who offered a freewill offering to the LORD.

(6) From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD, but the foundation of the temple of the LORD had not been laid.

(7) Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and food, drink and oil to the Sidonians and to the Tyrians, to bring cedar wood from Lebanon to the sea at Joppa, according to the permission they had from Cyrus king of Persia.

Problems arise in rebuilding the temple.

Ezra 4:4-5

(4) Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and frightened them from building,
(5) and hired counselors against them to frustrate their counsel all the days of Cyrus king of Persia, even until the reign of Darius king of Persia.

They began a letter writing campaign under the reign of Darius

- Darius I 521-486 (Third ruler after Cyrus).

These letters delay things a bit, but the temple is completed in 515 BC

They wrote letters under the reigns of

- Xerxes 485-465
- Artaxerxes I 464-424

Matthew 1:12

(12) After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.

From the legal aspect we still have the curse of Coniah to deal with.

Haggai 2:20-23

(20) Then the word of the LORD came a second time to Haggai on the twenty-fourth day of the month, saying,

(21) "Speak to Zerubbabel (son of Shealtiel – by levirate function) governor of Judah, saying, 'I am going to shake the heavens and the earth.

(22) 'I will overthrow the thrones of kingdoms and destroy the power of the kingdoms of the nations; and I will overthrow the chariots and their riders, and the horses and their riders will go down, everyone by the sword of another.'

(23) 'On that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,'" declares the LORD of hosts.

There is the lifting of the curse!

Matthew 1:13-18

(13) Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor.

Note that nothing more is attributed to these men in the Bible.

(14) Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud.

Note that nothing more is attributed to these men as well.

This is the Intertestamental period.

The dark ages of Jewish History.

Malachi was the last prophet to speak (circa 450-430 BC)

(15) Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob.

(16) Jacob was **the father of** (AOR ACT IND γεννάω – GENNAO - To *beget, to become*) Joseph the husband of Mary (feminine singular Μαρία), **by whom** (feminine singular pronoun) Jesus was born (AOR PASS IND γεννάω), **who is called** (*is being called*) the Messiah (Χριστός).

- AOR PASS IND γεννάω & Relative Pronoun
 - Emphasize Joseph was not the physical father of Jesus
 - Sin is checked
 - Yet, Jesus has a legal right to the throne

(17) So all the generations from Abraham to **David** are fourteen generations; from **David** to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

(18) Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

At this time God breaks His silence – He reveals Himself through the angel Gabriel.

Remember that royalty is always announced!

Someone has to herald the coming of Messiah, the One who is going to rule, and His kingdom.

Class Slides



All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.