

the son of David, the son of Abraham." What do we mean to say "Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham"? I met a man once who told me that he was descended by a direct line from William the Conqueror. But if I were to tell one of you that I saw a son of William the Conqueror, you'd think I was crazy. You'd say, "William the Conqueror died 900 years ago. How could you have seen a son of his? You're not a hundred years old yet to say nothing of 900 years. How could you have seen a son of his?" But the Bible says, "Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham". And the fact is that in the Bible the word "son" is used to mean what we mean when we say descendant. Jesus was a son of David means He was a descendant of David. He was a son of Abraham means He was a descendant of Abraham. It does not mean that He was in the next generation after. You can find dozens of illustrations of that in the Bible. That's what that word means. And you get on down a little and the next verse tells you, "Abraham begat Isaac" and the word "begat" in the Bible does not mean to be the father of. It means to be an ancestor of. Now ordinarily that ancestor is the one in the next line above - ordinarily it's a father but not always. For proof of that that don't have to look further than this first chapter of Matthew though there are many other passages that give you proof of it. You'll find in verse 7 it says, "Solomon begat Roboam" and every Jew knew that Roboam was the son of Solomon who reigned after Solomon's death. "And Roboam begat Abia" and every Jew knew that Abia was the son of Roboam who succeeded him as king. "And Abia begat Asa and Asa begat Josaphat" and you go on here with these sons for a certain distance and every Jew knows the names of the kings and their line right straight down - starting with Solomon and going on to Jechonias in verse 11. But as you look at the list here and compare it with the list in Kings, you find four names are skipped. Verse says that Ozias (which is the Greek form for Aziah) - no, I don't mean verse 9, I mean verse 11 \* - "Josias (which is the Greek form for Josiah) begat Jechonias" (that's the Greek form for Jehoyadin). And the Old Testament tells you that Josiah had a son Jehoyadin - spelled in English with a "k" - who had a son Jehoyakin who's also called Jechonias. So here when it says "Josias begat Jechonias", Jechonias was his grandson, not his son. And in the verse before that where it speaks of Ahab - Ahab was the father of Hezekiah - these Greek forms are sort of confusing to you - but in that verse 9 just compare them with the list of kings in the Book of Kings and you'll find three kings have been skipped. And it says a man begat and gives the name not of his son or his grandson or of his great-