

YESHUA—FROM THE TRIBE OF LEVI?

by Avram Yehoshua

[The Seed of Abraham](#)

The New Testament proclaims Yeshua (Jesus) as Savior, Messiah, King and High Priest of Israel. Because Yeshua is the High Priest, some people, like Richard Honorof¹ teach that Yeshua came not only from the Tribe of Judah, but also from the Tribe of Levi, through His Mother Miryam (Mary). There is nothing in either the Old or New Testaments, though, that speaks of Yeshua having any lineage from Levi or Aaron (the first High Priest of Israel). On the contrary, we find numerous places in the Old and New Testaments that speak of Yeshua coming from the Tribe of Judah, and particularly, from the Seed of David,² but nothing about the Messiah coming from Aaron. In the Letter to the Hebrews it specifically speaks of Yeshua being from the Tribe of Judah, and there isn't any reference to His being from the Tribe of Levi:

“For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which Tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.” (Hebrews 7:14)

If the Lord was also from the Tribe of Levi, the author of Hebrews, as well as others, would have told us that. The writer also emphatically declares, by saying that “Moses spoke nothing” of a (High) Priest arising from another Tribe, which means that he saw Yeshua coming from Judah and Judah only. The author of Hebrews writes that Yeshua did **not** descend from Aaron, who had descended from Levi:

*“Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the Law), what further need was there that another High Priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, **and not according to Aaron?** For the priesthood *being changed*, of necessity there is also a *change in the Law*.³ For He of whom these things are spoken *belongs to another Tribe, from which no man has officiated at the Altar* (of Sacrifice). *For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which Tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.*” (Hebrews 7:11-14)*

If Yeshua had lineage from Levi (Aaron and Zadok), as Mr. Honorof teaches, there would be no need for a change of the Law (Priesthood) because the Kingship (David's Throne) would only be added to the Priesthood. ‘Another priesthood’ and a ‘change of the Law’ means that the High Priest of this New Covenant **has not** come from Levi, but only from Judah, and as such, Yeshua likened unto Melchizedek (English: Melchizedek) in that He, too, is both King *and* High Priest of Salem (Jerusalem).

According to Thayer,⁴ the word for Mary begin *related* to Elizebeth can mean a blood relationship, as Mr. Honorof teaches, but not necessarily so. *BDAG* states, “belonging to the same *extended* family or clan, related,”⁵ which can mean that Miryam wasn't a blood relative of Elisheva, but ‘only’ a relative. As we

¹ See [Richard Honorof](#).

² Gen. 49:10; 2nd Sam. 7:12f.; Mt. 1:1f., 17, 20; 2:6; 9:27; 12:23; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9, 15; 22:43-45; Mk. 10:47-48; 11:10; 12:35-37; Lk. 1:27, 32, 69; 2:4, 11; 3:26f.; 18:38-39; 20:41-44; Jn. 7:42; Rom. 1:3; 2nd Tim. 2:8; Heb. 7:14; Rev. 3:7; 5:5; 22:16.

³ For more on what a *change of the Law* means, see my article, [Hebrews and the Change of the Law](#).

⁴ Joseph Thayer, *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, paragraph 8742 (Accordance Bible Software). συγγενής; *sungenēs, sungenes...of the same kin, akin to, related by blood...*Mark 6:4; Luke 2:44; 21:16...Luke (1:58); 14:12; John 18:26; Acts 10:24; Rom. 16:7,11,21...*hē sungenēs*, Luke 1:36...(Lev. 18:14); in a wider sense, *of the same race, a fellow-countryman*: Rom. 9:3

⁵ συγγενής, Walter Bauer, augmented by William F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich and Frederick Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (third edition, 2001), p. 950 (Accordance Bible Software). “belonging to the same extended family or clan, *related, akin to...*belonging to the same peo-

don't have any genealogy for Miryam, teaching that Yeshua had lineage from the Tribe of Levi through her, and basing it solely on the Greek word for 'related,' is a teaching that doesn't have any Scripture to support it. In other words, if Yeshua had lineage from Aaron we should be able to find at least one Scripture in either the Old or the New that speaks of it, but there isn't any. With the writer of Hebrews being so emphatic about Yeshua not coming from the Tribe of Levi, of which Aaron came from, it seems certain that Miryam didn't have any lineage from Aaron, even though her relative Elizabeth, did.

Why John?

As for why God named Zechariah and Elisheva's son, John, it's easy to see from the meaning of their names. Zechariah means, *Yahveh has remembered*, and Elisheva means, *My God has sworn or promised*, and so the two in union proclaim, *My God Yahveh has remembered the oath/promise* He made to Fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and John is born, whose name means, *the Grace of Yahveh*. This meaning is actually seen in the prophecy of Zechariah at his son John's circumcision, which is the first time that Zachariah had spoken since Gabriel shut his mouth, before John was conceived, nine month earlier. In the midst of the prophecy that Zachariah proclaims to everyone present, he states what God was doing for Israel, using the themes that their three names mean:

“To perform the mercy (**Grace**; John) promised to our Fathers and to **remember** (Zechariah) His holy Covenant, the **oath** (Elizabeth) which He swore to our Father Abraham.” (Luke 1:72-73)

Then Zechariah speaks about his son John, who heralds or prepares the way for the Messiah of Israel:

“And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High God! For *you will go before the presence of the Lord* to prepare His ways.” (Luke 1:76)

Conclusion

There is nothing in the New Testament that speaks of Yeshua coming from any Tribe other than Judah, and through the line of David, His 'Father.'⁶ It's extremely telling that in the last book of Scripture, not only does Yeshua Himself state that He was (only) from the Tribe of Judah, with no reference to Levi, but one of the Elders in Revelation also speaks of Yeshua having (only) His lineage from Judah and David:

“But one of the Elders said to me, ‘Do not weep! Behold! The Lion of *the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David*, has prevailed to open the Scroll and to loose its seven seals.’” (Revelation 5:5)

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. *I am the Root and the Offspring of David*, the Bright and Morning Star.” (Revelation 22:16)

Gabriel, the angel sent to Miryam to announce the Child that would come from her womb, says to her:

“Behold! You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Yeshua. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God, and the Lord God will give Him *the Throne of His Father David*. And He will reign over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end!” (Luke 1:31-33)

ple group, *compatriot, kin*.”

⁶ To understand how Yeshua is seen coming from the lineage of Joseph, when obviously, Joseph had nothing to do with Yeshua's conception, you'll want to read, [The Davidic Lineage of Messiah Yeshua](#).

The thought that Jesus also had lineage from Levi, Aaron and Zadok is nice, but not biblical. There isn't a single Scripture anywhere that speaks of the Messiah coming from the Tribe of Levi.⁷

⁷ This article was created on July 3, 2019 and revised on August 2, 2019.