

The Shoot

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."

- Isaiah 11:1

"He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground." - Isa. 53:2

Last week, we learned that the stump (or root) is a picture of Jesus.

Today we learn that Jesus is also the branch (or shoot.)

Why Do We Believe that Jesus was the Shoot?

1. He is the Shoot because He grew up in "shoot town."

- The Hebrew word for shoot is N-TS-R. נֶצֶר

- The Hebrew word for Nazareth is N-TS-R-T. נֶצְרֶת

"...and He went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene." - Matthew 2:23

"What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are — the Holy One of God!" - Mark 1:24

"Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. - John 19:19

2. He is the Shoot because He is from the kingly line of David and Judah and therefore the rightful heir to David's throne.

"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers...⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,⁶ and Jesse the father of King David." - Matthew 1:1,2,5

- Jesus was born to be king!

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, **for this reason I was born**, and for this I came into the world..." - John 18:37

- Jesus rode into Jerusalem to proclaim His kingship.

"Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, **your king comes** to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." - Zechariah 9:9

"Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here."

- Luke 19:30

- When Jesus came into our world the first time, He offered Himself as King. When He comes the second time, He will take the title.



"They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because **He is Lord of lords and King of kings** — and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers." - Revelation 17:14

3. He is the Shoot because He says so.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. **I am the Root and the Offspring of David**, and the bright Morning Star." - Revelation 22:16

How Could One Person be the Root and the Shoot?

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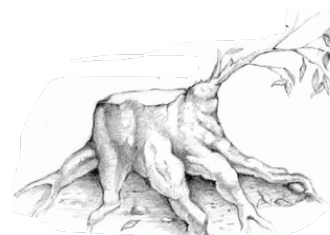
- Jesus said that He was the father of David and the son of David — at the same time.

"Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

"You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to Him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "**before Abraham was born, I am!**" - Jn 8:56-58

"Then they asked Him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "**If you knew me, you would know my Father also.**" - John 8:19



"My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. **I and the Father are one.**" - John 10:29,30

"Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...**" - John 15:8,9

What the Scriptures Tell of the Branch

- That He will be a King. (The Gospel of Matthew)

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous **Branch, a King** who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land."

- Jeremiah 23:5

- That He will be a Servant. (The Gospel of Mark)

"Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring **my servant, the Branch.**"

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- That He will be a Man. (The Gospel of Luke)

"Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is **the man** whose name is the **Branch**, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD.'

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- That He will be God. (The Gospel of John)

"In that day the **Branch of the LORD** will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel."

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How Do We Respond?

1. Like the shepherds of the Christmas story, we believe!
2. Like the wise men, we worship!

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- That He will be a _____. (The Gospel of Mark)

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"Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is **the man** whose name is the **Branch**, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD.' - Zechariah 6:12

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"In that day the **Branch of the LORD** will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel." - Isaiah 4:2

How Do We Respond?

1. Like the shepherds of the Christmas story, we _____!

2. Like the wise men, we _____!

The Shoot

Lessons We Learn: Jesus is the Branch We've Awaited!

1. He is a King. (The Gospel of Matthew)

*"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a **King** who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land."*
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2. He is a Servant. (The Gospel of Mark)

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2. Like the wise men, we worship!

Consider and Discuss the Following:

1. Jesus is both David's ancestor and his descendant. How is that possible? What does that tell you about the incarnation that happened the first Christmas?
2. The four gospels each highlight a different aspect of who Jesus is. Which of these four do you need most at this point in your life?
3. Jesus' birth was lowly and went generally unnoticed. Indeed, He came to be a servant. *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* (Mark 10:45) In what ways could you follow Jesus this Christmas and serve others around you?

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