

# The Mystery of Boaz and Jachin

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One of the greatest mysteries in the Bible concerns the twin pillars at the porch of Solomon's Temple. These pillars were just over thirty feet in height, six feet in diameter, and cast from bronze. On top of each pillar was an eight foot high bronze "capital" elaborately decked with a network of gold chains and hundreds of cast pomegranates. These columns were entirely ornamental. They did not support any part of the Temple. This is our first clue that they were symbolic of something very important. Additionally, each column was given a mysterious name. The north column was named, "Boaz," the south column, "Jachin."<sup>1</sup>

## The Revelation of the Mystery is to be Found in Jesus Christ Alone

The theme of the Old Testament is without question – Jesus Christ.<sup>2</sup> It contains many direct prophecies and many mysterious symbols. All point to the three part work of Jesus Christ – creating, redeeming, and reigning. These themes are found throughout the feasts of Israel, the Levitical priesthood, and the patterns for the Tabernacle of Moses, Solomon's Temple, and Ezekiel's Temple (still future).

The Medieval Jewish mystics offered absurd explanations of these pillars in the Kabala,<sup>3</sup> concepts that reflect pagan ideas not biblical ones. But fanciful speculations are to be expected from those who reject the One to whom all of the Old Testament points. The Cabalists cannot provide illumination regarding these mysteries, "because there is no light in them."<sup>4</sup> This should come as no surprise. Jesus indicated that the unbelieving mind could not perceive Him in the Old Testament Scriptures because they did not have the true word of God abiding in them.

*John 5:37-39*

*37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.*

*38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.*

*39 **You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and **these are they which testify of Me.*****

The symbolism in the Old Testament points to one thing only – the person and work of Jesus Christ. The majesty of God's prophetic plan encoded in the twin pillars of Solomon's Temple is nothing short of mind boggling. Decoding the mysteries of Solomon's Temple as an unbeliever is utterly futile. True illumination comes from Jesus Christ alone – through the writings of His inspired Apostles and through His indwelling Holy Spirit, possessed exclusively by those who have repented and been baptized into Jesus Christ.

*Luke 24:27, 44-45*

*27 And beginning at **Moses and all the Prophets**, He expounded to them **in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.** ...*

*44 Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were **written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**"*

*45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*

*1 Cor. 2:7-14*

*7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,*

*8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*

*9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

*10 **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.** For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

12 **Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.**

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Having dispensed with Jewish mysticism as a legitimate source of revelation, let us base our exploration on this one premise: the Temple and all of its features point to the person and work of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

### **The First Clue**

The first clue for decoding the mystery pillars is the meaning of the names assigned to them, Jachin and Boaz. Both names carry a similar meaning in Hebrew. Boaz means "by His strength." Jachin means "God will establish." Taken together, these two names form a declaration, "By His strength – God will establish." Certainly this has reference to the building of the Temple. Solomon wrote in Psalm Ps 127:1, "Unless the LORD builds the house [Temple], they labor in vain who build it." No doubt this was a reminder to Israel that without the LORD every endeavor was futile.

Yet, the real gems await deeper digging. The descriptive terms "Boaz" and "Jachin" describe the very men who were responsible for the building of the Temple, David and Solomon. The Temple was David's vision. But its intricate plans were given to him by the Spirit of God.<sup>5</sup> David also collected much of the material for its construction. David's son, Solomon, constructed the Temple according to the plans and materials provided by David. We now need to turn our attention to the manner in which the concept for the Temple came about. The Temple is inseparably linked to what theologians call "the Davidic Covenant."

God chose David, a poor shepherd boy, to be king of Israel. David defeated Goliath by the power of God. And God used this young man to defeat all of Israel's enemies. This was not in David's strength, but in God's strength in whom David trusted. Because of God's greatness evident in His using David in this way, David wanted to build God a permanent Temple.

### **Boaz: "by His Strength"**

When David first conceived of the idea of building God a Temple, God sent Nathan the prophet to David with these words:

*1 Chronicles 17:7-8*

*7 Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, Thus says the LORD of hosts: "**I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.***

*8 And **I have been with you wherever you have gone**, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a name like the name of the great men who are on the earth.*

David was nothing but a simple shepherd boy. Yet, David defeated Goliath and all of Israel's enemies "by His (God's) strength" — (Boaz). Psalm 18 is David's tribute to God "my strength" (Boaz). God acknowledged David's desire to build Him a permanent house by telling him that He would build David a house – a dynasty that would rule over the nation of Israel **forever**.

### **Jachin: "Yah will Establish"**

Nathan went on in the same passage to tell David about his immediate heir (Solomon), and that His dynasty (throne) would be established forever.

*1 Chron 17:11-14*

*11 And it shall be, when your days are fulfilled, when you must go to be with your fathers, that I will set up your seed after you, who will be of your sons; and **I will establish** his kingdom.*

*12 He shall build Me a house, and **I will establish** his throne forever.*

13 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son; and I will not take My mercy away from him, as I took it from him who was before you.

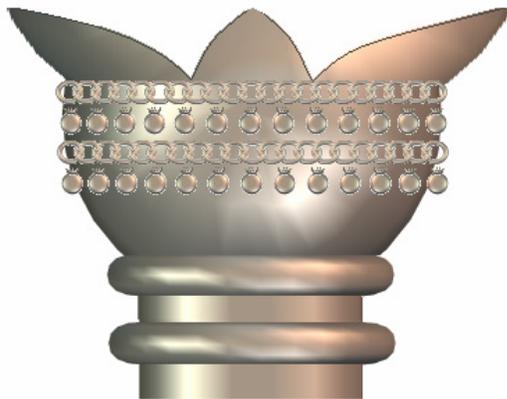
14 And **I will establish** him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and **his throne shall be established forever.**"

### The Capitals

We learn from 1 Kings 7 that each of the two pillars had "capitals" in the figure of a bowl like "lily." Around these capitals were chains. Suspended from the chains were cast figures of hundreds of pomegranates. The pomegranate fruit is known for its seeds. In fact, when opened, it is virtually all "seeds," with many containing over six hundred.



The two "capitals," decorated with chains and hundreds of pomegranates, represent King David and King Solomon. The chains indicate royalty. The pomegranates represent the "seed" (sperm) of these two kings who were responsible for building the Temple of the God of Israel. The two bronze columns beneath each capital represent two independent lines of their descendants. These are the genealogies of Joseph and Mary given in Matthew and Luke.



The New Testament makes it abundantly clear that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the promise of David that one of his descendants would sit upon the Throne of Israel forever.<sup>6</sup> Matthew's genealogy indicates that Joseph was a descendant of David through Solomon.<sup>7</sup> But Luke's genealogy indicates that Mary was a descendant of David through Nathan, Solomon's older brother.<sup>8</sup>

Jesus was David's genetic "heir" through his birth mother, Mary, who descended from David's son, Nathan. But, Nathan and His descendants had no legal right to the throne of David because it was given by God to Solomon, Nathan's younger brother. Jesus was genetically "the Son of David"

through Mary. But, in order to have a legal right to the throne, he had to also be the heir of King Solomon. Jesus was the *legal* heir to David's & Solomon's throne because his legal (though not biological) father was Joseph, a descendant of Solomon. Mary became pregnant by the Spirit after she was espoused to Joseph. In Jewish Law, they were legally married, and could only be separated by a divorce. This was true even before their physical union at the consummation of their marriage. Joseph was a descendant of Solomon and all the kings of Judah right up until king Josiah, when the throne of Solomon was cut off (the Babylonian captivity). Therefore, Joseph's *legal* son, Jesus, was a candidate to be the Messiah.

God promised David an eternal dynasty, the coming Messiah. Peter stated this plainly in his Pentecostal sermon, and identified Jesus as that promised descendant.<sup>9</sup> Yet, the promise was twofold, with both a masculine and feminine component.

*Psalm 89:3-4,28-29*

3 "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David:

4 **Your SEED** [literally – sperm] I will establish forever, And build up **your throne** to all generations."  
Selah

28 My mercy I will keep for him forever, And My covenant shall stand firm with him.

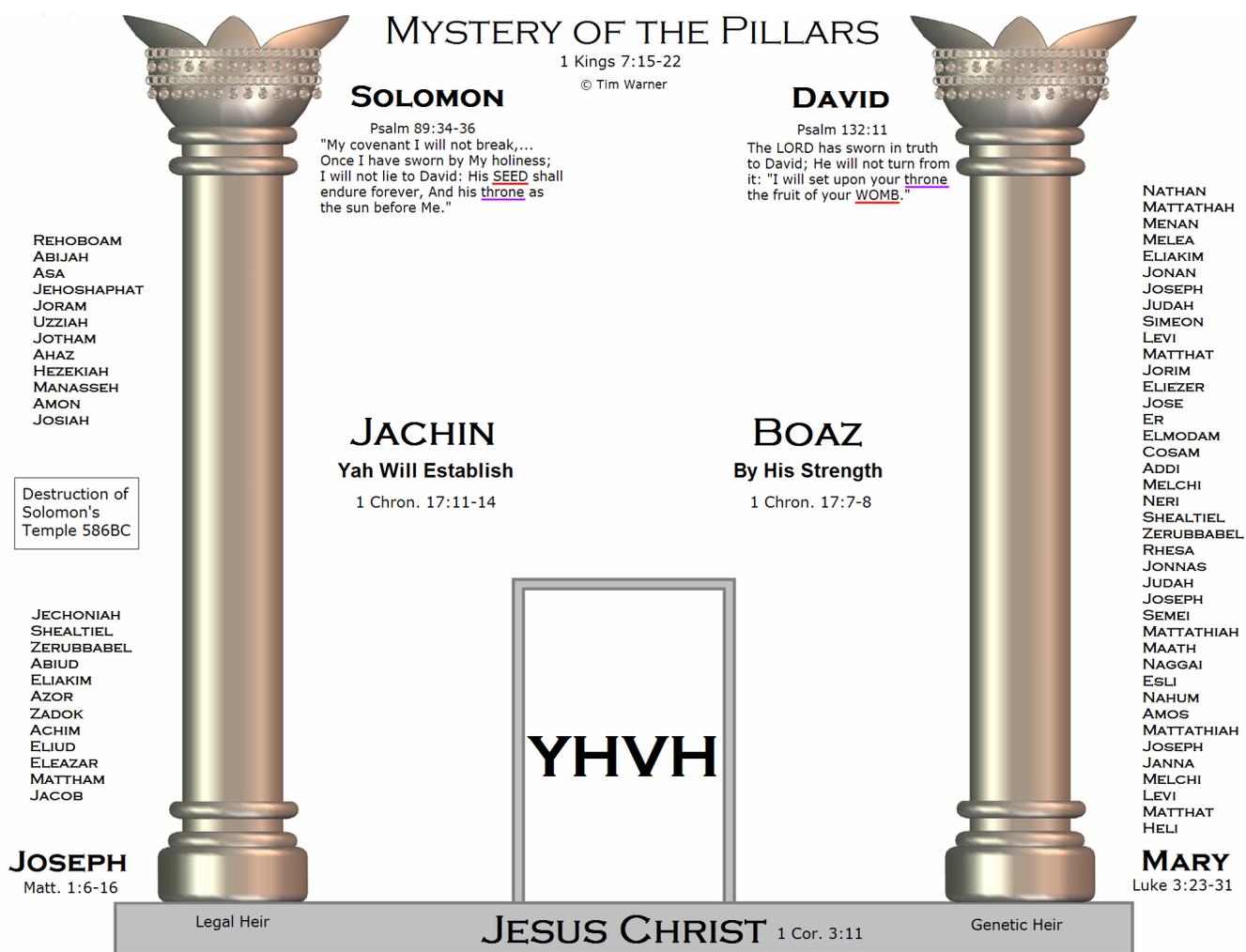
29 **His SEED** also I will make to endure forever, And **his throne** as the days of heaven.

*Psalm 132:11*

11 The LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon **your throne the fruit of your BODY** [literally – WOMB].

God's covenant with David consisted of two distinct elements. The Messiah who would sit upon the Throne of Israel forever in the Davidic Dynasty, and He would be both from David's "seed" and from David's "womb." We all know that men do not have a "womb." This refers to one of David's descendant "daughters" (female). The "seed" refers to all the male descendants in the genealogical tree line. In these two passages God has indicated that the Messiah would be a descendant of David both from the male and female side. The Jews normally reckoned a descendant through the male, and all legal rights were from the male. The two columns, Boaz and Jachin, are the male descendants of David (through Nathan) and Solomon respectively, culminating with Joseph and Mary (who was the "womb" of Psalm 132:11).

When God confirmed the covenant to Solomon, after David's death, he repeated the promise that Solomon's "throne" would be established forever. But God never told Solomon that the Messiah would be from his "seed" (Solomon's genetic heir).<sup>10</sup> He only told that to his father, David. The reason is apparent. The Messiah was not to be Solomon's genetic son, only his legal heir. Genetically speaking, Jesus was the Son of God (by the Holy Spirit) and the Son of David (through the womb of Mary). But *legally*, He was heir to the throne of David and Solomon because Mary was "espoused" to Joseph when she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. His *legal* right to the Throne of David came through Joseph, descendant of Solomon, son of David.



### The Cursed Seed of Jechoniah

After Solomon died, the nation was split in two. Soon afterwards, the northern part (Israel) was conquered by the Assyrians. The southern kingdom (Judah) remained for a while governed by a series

of kings from Solomon's dynasty. The last direct heir to Solomon's throne was Coniah (Jechoniah), the son of the last king to sit upon the Throne of David and Solomon. But because of Israel's idolatry, he was cursed by God. During his time God sent Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple as judgment on their idolatry.

*Jeremiah 22:28-30*

28 "Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol — A vessel in which is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know?"

29 O earth, earth, earth, Hear the word of the LORD!

30 Thus says the LORD: "Write this man down as childless, A man who shall not prosper in his days;

**For none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah."**

Because of the curse of Coniah, Israel's royal line (through Solomon) would seem to be severed forever. The promises to David and Solomon could never be fulfilled. If Coniah (Jechoniah) was the sole heir to Solomon's throne, and God cursed him by saying that none of his "seed" would ever sit upon the Throne of Israel, the dynasty of David and Solomon would seem forever lost.

Yet, just a few verses after the curse of Coniah quoted above, Jeremiah prophesied of the Christ (Messiah).

*Jeremiah 23:5-6*

5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "**That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.**"

6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

God told the nation of Israel that despite the curse upon the royal seed, somehow He would restore the Davidic Dynasty in order to fulfill His promise to David. Joseph himself could not sit upon the Throne of David and Solomon because he was of the cursed royal "seed" of Coniah (Jechoniah). But, the **legal** son of Joseph, who was not actually of his **genetic "seed"** (descended from Coniah), would avoid the curse. He could sit upon the throne of David and Solomon, but only IF he was also David's genetic descendant by some other means that bypassed the cursed seed of Coniah! Remember, God only promised Solomon that His **Throne** would be established forever. He promised Solomon nothing regarding his physical "seed." Only to David did God say that one of his genetic descendants would sit upon his throne.

The prophecy of the Messiah through David's **WOMB** in Psalm 132:11 provides the other separate line of descent for the Messiah. It was necessary then for the Messiah to have *two independent genealogies from David*, a royal line through Solomon and all of Judah's legitimate kings, and a separate genetic descent from David himself. Only through the virgin birth, during the time that Mary was espoused to Joseph, could the Davidic Covenant have been restored, fulfilling all the prophecies while at the same time avoiding the curse of Coniah (Jechoniah)!

### **Daily Illumination from Heaven**

The front of Solomon's Temple faced towards the east. There was a high wall around the outer courtyard. As the sun began to pierce the darkness in the early morning, the two polished bronze "capitals" covered in pomegranates (symbolizing King David and King Solomon) began reflecting the bright morning sunlight. Yet, the rest of the Temple and the pillars were still hidden in the shadows. The illumination of these two capitals each morning represents the covenant God made with David and with Solomon. As the sun continued to climb in the eastern sky, the pillars began to progressively glow from the top down, the shadow receding towards the pavement. This daily progression of sunlight down the pillars represented the unfolding family tree of the Messiah. Eventually, the foundation was exposed to the light of the sun. The "foundation" is Jesus Christ.<sup>11</sup> Its illumination by the sunlight represents His birth.

Isaiah 28:16 (LXX)

16 Therefore thus saith the Lord, even the Lord, Behold, I lay for the foundations of Sion a costly stone, a choice corner-stone, a precious stone for its foundations; and he that believes on Him shall by no means be ashamed."<sup>12</sup>

All of this was encoded in Solomon's Temple a thousands years before Jesus was born! If this were all there was to it, it would be enough. But, there is more. In front of the porch, offset to the south (on your left facing the Temple), was a huge bronze "sea" (basin) of water setting upon twelve bronze bulls, three facing in each direction of the compass. A little further to the east, directly in front of the porch, was the bronze "altar of sacrifice."

As the dawn burst upon the Temple complex each morning, the promise of the coming Messiah given to David and to Solomon shone forth in glorious splendor. The genealogy of Jesus Christ, from both David and Solomon, down to Mary and Joseph, was progressively revealed by the receding shadows until finally the "foundation" was revealed, who is Jesus Christ. But, the sunlight did not stop at the pavement. The dark shadows continued to recede from the front of the porch moving eastward as the sun continued its westerly course in the sky. Soon the bronze "sea" was exposed to the light from heaven. The bronze "sea" represents Jesus' baptism at the beginning of His earthly ministry. The twelve bulls beneath it, three each facing north, south, east, and west, represent Jesus' twelve disciples whom He would later send to "all the world." Not long after the bronze "sea" was exposed revealing the beginning of Jesus' earthly ministry, the bronze altar of sacrifice was exposed to the light of the sun. This represents the cross, where Jesus paid the ultimate price for sin, becoming the "sacrifice" for all mankind.<sup>13</sup>

Finally, as the sun passed directly overhead just after noon, the shadows disappeared from the eastern gate in the east wall of the court. Of course, this represents the empty tomb! As one turns his gaze towards the distance, through the eastern gate, the westward moving sun fully illuminates the Mount of Olives, from which Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after His resurrection.<sup>14</sup> Once the sun has moved into the western side of its heavenly course, the two columns, Boaz and Jachin, are suddenly dark again in the shadow of the Temple itself. This represents the blindness of Israel during the present age. As the sun sets in the west, and all is dark again in Israel. Yet, we know that while Israel is in darkness, the sunlight shines brightly around the rest of the world, ever moving in a westerly direction. The Gospel went out from Jerusalem to the west (Asia Minor, Greece, Western Europe). It then moved westward across the Atlantic. And from America it has moved across the Pacific to the Far East. It continues its westerly march along the path of the sun. It is just now making inroads in the Muslim countries, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, and Iraq. It will continue to gather a harvest of souls throughout the Middle East, until the sun rises on the Holy Land once again. Jesus is coming again! And He said that His coming will be like lightning, shining from the east unto the west!<sup>15</sup> Even so, come Lord Jesus!

I began this paper by pointing out the biblical teaching regarding "illumination." Do not accept "illumination" of these mysteries from any source that does not hold as axiomatic the following fact: all of the Old Testament symbols point to Jesus Christ. The true meanings behind the symbols of Solomon's Temple, and all the other enigmas in the Old Testament, can be found only as they are revealed to us by the Spirit of God. And He dwells within Jesus' true followers exclusively. Listen to the Apostle John: "In Him [Jesus] was life, and **the life was the light of men** ... That is **the true light**, which gives light to every man coming into the world."<sup>16</sup> Jesus said the same thing. "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world**. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."<sup>17</sup> If we search for "light" from any other source we are bound to be deceived. "And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."<sup>18</sup>

2 Corinthians 4:2-7

2 But **we have renounced the hidden things** of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 **whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe**, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.

6 For **it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Unless one understands that the symbols of the Old Testament all point to the person and work of Jesus Christ, he will forever be groping in the dark in search of light, "ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."<sup>19</sup> Unless he has received the Spirit of Jesus Christ, his only "illumination" comes from the pseudo-light provided by "the god of this age." That false "light" is intended to blind him to "the true light."

## Notes:

1. Some writers have mistakenly supposed that the north pillar was *Jachin* and the south pillar was *Boaz*. This mistake stems from assuming that the left and right orientation given in 1 Kings 7:21 was from outside facing westward towards the Temple entrance. However, the orientation was certainly from inside facing out (eastward). Verse 39 states that Solomon "set the Sea on the **right** side of the house, toward the **southeast**." The Brazen Sea (a large cast bowl like structure) was placed in front of the Temple (East side) offset towards the south. This southerly placement was said to be "on the right side" of the Temple. Josephus confirms this orientation, (*Antiquities*, Bk. VIII, 3). Solomon was following the plans provided by David, which were given to him by God Himself (1 Chronicles 28:11-12 & 19). Therefore, we would expect the left and right orientation to be from the perspective of the Divine Architect of the Temple, God Himself, from within the Holy of Holies. Someone approaching the Temple would find the reverse orientation, with *Boaz* on his right (north) and *Jachin* on his left (south).

2. 1 Peter 1:10-12, 1 Corinthians 5:7

3. The Kabbalistic Treatise, "*Shaarey Orach*" (*Gates of Light*), by Rabbi Joseph Gikatilia (AD1248-1323), teaches that the two pillars represent the descent of preexisting souls into physical bodies. "He who knows the mysteries of the two pillars, which are *Jachin* and *Boaz*, shall understand after what manner the *Neshamoth*, or *Minds*, descend with the *Ruachoth*, or *Spirits*, and the *Nephasoth*, or *Souls*, through *El-chai* and *Adonai* by the influx of the said two pillars." That people consist of flesh bodies into which preexisting Divine souls descend is a standard teaching of Platonism, Gnosticism, Jewish mysticism, Hinduism, Occultism, and New Age philosophy. It is utterly foreign to the Bible. According to Genesis 2:7, man "became a living soul" when God animated him with the "breath of life."

4. Isaiah 8:20 is a prophecy that speaks of Jesus and His Jewish disciples in stark contrast to the Jewish Mystics who have no "light" (knowledge) according to the Bible.

5. 1 Chronicles 28:11-12 & 19

6. Luke 1:32-33

7. Matthew 1:6

8. Luke 3:31

9. Acts 2:30

10. 2 Samuel 7:12-17 & 1 Kings 9:5, 1 Chronicles 22:9-10

11. Isaiah 28:16, 1 Corinthians 3:11

12. see also: 1 Peter 2:5-8

13. Isaiah 53

14. Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:9-12

15. Matthew 24:27

16. John 1:4 & 9

17. John 8:12

18. 2 Corinthians 11:14

19. 1 Timothy 3:7