

“The stem of Jesse”

Regarding the query posed in “The Bible Workman” as to why Jesus is referred to as “a rod out of the stem of *Jesse*”, rather than David, in Isaiah 11:1 ([Apr. 2008, p. 36](#)), Brevard S. Childs’ commentary on Isaiah provides, in my view, the most convincing explanation: “From the old stump there comes forth a shoot of new life. The naming of Jesse signals a sure continuity with Israel’s past but serves as a reminder of David’s humble beginnings and of a promise grounded in divine election rather than on human pride and royal pretension (2 Samuel 7). The metaphor of the stump also picks up textually the holy seed in the stump of Isaiah 6:13”.

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