

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
ZECHARIAH 6:9-15

Introduction

In *verses 9-11* we saw:

THE SYMBOLIC CROWNING OF JOSHUA THE HIGH PRIEST
JOSHUA wonderfully **PREFIGURES MESSIAH** or **CHRIST**. The **HIGH PRIEST WHO** performs **SACRIFICE** is **CROWNED KING!** There is only **ONE MAN WHO** is to fulfill the **PRIEST-KING** role and that is the **MESSIAH!**

The **MESSIAH** is not a **KING WHO** becomes a **PRIEST**, but rather a **PRIEST WHO** becomes a **KING**.

MESSIAH first performed **HIS PRIESTLY WORK OF SACRIFICE FOR SIN** on the **CROSS** and then was afterward **RAISED TO THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER** and **CROWNED** with **GLORY AND HONOR!**

Even now **HE** performs the function of **HIGH PRIEST** for us and **IN HIS COMING MILLENNIAL REIGN HE** will also perform the function of **SOVEREIGN KING!**

Next we see: **THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE. (Vs 12-13)**
The picture of the **MESSIAH** in *verses 12 and 13* has been hailed as the most inclusive or complete portrait of **"THE COMING KING"** of **ISRAEL** to be found in the pages of the **OLD TESTAMENT**.

In *verse 12*, an explanation of what was happening was to be given to **JOSHUA** [so that he would not think himself a king.]

Every one would be ready to ask, **"What is the meaning of Joshua's being so crowned?"** So the prophet is told to tell them the meaning of it. It is the **WORD OF THE LORD** that indicates the reason for the **CROWN** being placed on **JOSHUA'S** head. Notice that **JOSHUA** is the one **ZECHARIAH** addresses in this statement so that **JOSHUA'S** attention is directed to the **MAN** to **WHOM** this symbolic act pointed.

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
ZECHARIAH 6:9-15

GOD told **ZECHARIAH** to convey to **JOSHUA** that he would represent **THE BRANCH WHO WOULD BUILD THE ETERNAL TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD**.

The designation **BRANCH** or **SHOOT** has already been employed by **ISAIAH, JEREMIAH** and **ZECHARIAH** to point to the **MESSIAH**. *Isaiah 4:2*—**"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel."**

Isaiah 11:1—**"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:"**

Isaiah 53:2—**"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."**

Jeremiah 33:15—**"In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land."**

Zechariah 3:8

There could be no doubt in **JOSHUA'S** mind that the **SYMBOLIC ACT** pointed toward **THE COMING ONE!** This **SYMBOLIC ACT** clearly sets forth the **PERSON** of **THE PROMISED REDEEMER**, graphically, portraying **HIS MISSION** and the **OFFICES HE** is to fill!

Also notice the captivating statement **"BEHOLD THE MAN."** **PONTIUS PILATE** unknowingly uttered these words in *John 19:5* before the yelling murderous mob at **CHRIST'S** trial. **JESUS** was then **mocked, spat upon, struck and CROWNED, but with a CROWN of Judean thorns which CROWNED HIM with blood**.

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
ZECHARIAH 6:9-15

If the **JEW**s had not been so demonically blinded by their hatred they might have recalled **ZECHARIAH'S PROPHETIC DESIGNATION**, "**BEHOLD THE MAN**," in the words of **PILATE**.

This **BRANCH** will "**grow up out of his place**" meaning **HE** will be a fruitful plant. **HE** will have a small insignificant beginning but will "**grow up out of his place**".

Remember how Jesus said in **John 12:24**—"*Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*"

"**He**" is emphatic here. **HE**, and only **HE** "**shall build the temple of the LORD**." The reference is not to the earthly **TEMPLE** which was then under construction but to another **TEMPLE**, another **DWELLING PLACE OF GOD**.

In **John 2:19**, **JESUS** said, "**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**"

HE was the **TEMPLE** where **GOD'S GLORY DWELT!** **Colossians 2:9**—*For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*"

The **TEMPLE** which they were now engaged in building was both a **TYPE** and a **PLEDGE**. It was a place of **COMMUNION** between **GOD** and **HIS PEOPLE**, for **GOD** seeks to **COMMUNE** with man. **GOD** came down in **CHRIST, HIS TEMPLE**, to **COMMUNE** with man! In **CHRIST JESUS** we have the true meeting place where **COMMUNION** between **GOD** and man is consummated!

But there is another **TEMPLE** of which the **MESSIAH HIMSELF** is the actual **BUILDER**. We that have entered into **CHRIST** have **BECOME THE BODY OF CHRIST!** We too are **HIS TEMPLE!**
1 Corinthians 3:16—"*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*"

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
ZECHARIAH 6:9-15

1 Corinthians 6:19-20—"*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*"

JESUS said **HE** would build **HIS TEMPLE, HIS CHURCH** upon the solid rock of **PETER'S** confession, "**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**" **Matthew 16:16**.

So, **PETER** could write in **1 Peter 2:4-5**—"*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*"

Look at what **PAUL** also wrote in **Ephesians 2:19-22**.

The **TEMPLE OF GOD, HIS LIVING CHURCH**, has branched out into all parts of the world!

But let's understand that this could also be referencing the establishing of the **MILLENNIAL TEMPLE**. **Isaiah 2:2-4; Ezekiel 40-46, Micah 4:1-2**

The fact that **THE BRANCH** will **BUILD THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD** is **emphatically** repeated in **verse 13**.

Again the **HEBREW** word "**He**" is **emphatic**. The **ONE WHO** builds **THE LIVING TEMPLE OF GOD** is indicated. It was only by the work of **JESUS**, the '**one greater than the temple**' (**Matthew 12:6**), that the **BUILDING** could be **FOUNDED**, and it is by **HIS PRIESTLY POWER** that it is **GROWING TO COMPLETION**, and **HE WILL RETURN AS THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE** of it!

Remember, in **O.T.** times the **OFFICES** of **PRIEST** and **KING** were clearly **DISTINGUISHED** and **SEPARATE**. But here they are **COMBINED!**

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
ZECHARIAH 6:9-15

A **ROYAL "THRONE"** denotes **KINGSHIP**. And this **KING** shall not only possess the **HONOR** and **DIGNITY** of a **KING** but **HE** will also **EXERCISE ALL ROYAL POWER** and **AUTHORITY OF THE OFFICE**, the **ABSOLUTE MONARCHY** of a **BENEVOLENT GOD**.

Yes in that day the **GREAT HIGH PRIEST**, the true **MELCHIZEDEK**, the **KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, the **KING OF SALEM**, the **KING OF PEACE** will sit upon **HIS THRONE!**

Even now **HE** is exercising **HIS HIGH PRIESTLY OFFICE** as our **ADVOCATE** with the **FATHER**, for **HE** is the **ONLY MEDIATOR** between **GOD** and man! But then the **CREATOR-REDEEMER** will take possession of **HIS INHERITANCE** for **HE** is the **RIGHTFUL OWNER**, our **PRIEST-KING** who comes to take possession of the earth!

HE will then bring about the **COUNSEL OF PEACE**. The **COUNSEL OF PEACE** is a deliberate policy which procures or results in **PEACE** by bringing **THE WAY OF HEAVEN** to earth.

The **DISCORD** and **DISAGREEMENT** that so often arise today, both in **POLITICAL DECISIONS** and in **CHURCH DECISIONS**, will be no more. There will be no more **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE!**

The **MESSIAH** as **PRIEST-KING** will produce **PEACE** because **HIS GLORIOUS OMNISCIENCE** and **HIS EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS** will bring **HARMONY** to all **ADMINISTRATION** and **JUDICIAL** functions and to all **RELIGIOUS** and **SPIRITUAL** ones as well.

In Verses 14-15 WE SEE A REMINDER TO BE OBEDIENT! The concluding two verses of the chapter list three further **BLESSINGS** that are bestowed, some immediately, some at a later date.

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
ZECHARIAH 6:9-15

In *verse 14* the **SYMBOLIC CROWN** is **REMOVED** and **PLACED IN THE TEMPLE** to be a **REMINDER** of **THE COMING PRIEST-KING**. The **CROWN** would become a **REMINDER** in the **TEMPLE OF THE LORD** to *Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen* the son of **ZEPHANIAH**.

A. The Blessing Of The Memorial CROWN Was To Remind Them Of THE COMING PRIEST-KING!

The **CROWN** that was set on **JOSHUA'S** head did not remain there. **JOSHUA'S CROWNING** was merely a brief and **SYMBOLIC** act.

The importance of the **CROWNING** of the **HIGH PRIEST** was to be as a **SYMBOLIC REMINDER** or **MEMORIAL**; an object designed to recall an event so it would not be forgotten.

The new **TEMPLE** did not contain two tablets of stone, no rod that budded, no clay jar containing manna, but it would contain this **CROWN** as a **REMINDER** of the coming **PRIEST-KING**.

There are those who believe that the **CROWN** remained in the **TEMPLE** till **MESSIAH** came, and then all was destroyed by the **ROMANS** in **70 A.D.**

Chapter 6 concludes with three statements in *verse 15*.

1. "And they that are far off shall come and build (in) the temple of the LORD."

"They that are far off" is a reference to **GENTILES**. This **TEMPLE**, **HIS BODY** (i.e. **HIS CHURCH**) is a **TEMPLE** for **BOTH JEW** and **GENTILE!**

1 Peter 2:5—Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (Cf. Ephesians 2:18-22)

**BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
ZECHARIAH 6:9-15**

2. *“And ye shall know that the LORD of Hosts hath sent me unto you.”*
This **FULFILLMENT** would be an indication that the **LORD** had sent **ZECHARIAH** to the **JEWS!**
3. *“And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”*
The **LORD** will **BUILD HIS ETERNAL SPIRITUAL TEMPLE** and **KINGDOM** but **HE** will **BUILD** it by the efforts of **THOSE WHO COME TO HIM** and **LABOR DILIGENTLY FOR HIM.**

He's not saying that the **FULFILLMENT** of this **PROPHECY** is dependent upon man's **OBEDIENCE!**

ITS FULFILLMENT is the **WILL** and unchangeable **PURPOSE OF GOD** alone, but our **PARTICIPATION** in it **DEPENDS UPON OUR FAITH AND OBEDIENCE!** **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS** do not fall upon those that do not **OBEY THE WORD!**

Conclusion

In the **OLD TESTAMENT** age **GOD** instructed **HIS PEOPLE** by means of **TYPES** and **SYMBOLS**. They were to **PERCEIVE** the **SPIRITUAL REALITIES REPRESENTED** by them.

They were shown here that their own **TEMPLE** restoration project was only a stage in the building of a **SPIRITUAL TEMPLE** by the **MESSIAH.**

What they were doing **FORESHADOWED** a grander reality of which they were part, but which would only be fully seen in the future.

**BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE BRANCH BUILDS HIS TEMPLE
ZECHARIAH 6:9-15**

Their hopes would only be **REALIZED** through the **MESSIAH WHO** was the **KEY TO GOD'S PURPOSES OF SALVATION.**

THE BRANCH fulfils both what the **AARONIC PRIESTHOOD** **TYPIFIED** and what the **LINE OF DAVID** pointed toward. As **PRIEST**, **HE** offered the complete atoning sacrifice and so **HE** has absolute authority to forgive sin and remove guilt.

As **KING**, **HE** would have **POWER** to provide for **HIS PEOPLE'S** needs and to rule over them and their enemies.

In both capacities **HIS PROVISION** is **UNINTERRUPTED** and **PERPETUAL!**

Hebrews 7:24—“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.” And, as *Daniel 7:14* says, “...his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

The **ONE WHO** is the **PRIEST WHO FORGIVES** is also the **KING** whose **POWER** can break the power of sin, and with the past atoned for we can look forward to the **FUTURE** through the **PROVISION HE CONTINUALLY MAKES FOR US.**

HE WILL COME as the **WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, and THE PRINCE OF PEACE**, to **RULE** with **DIVINE JUSTICE** and bring about **PEACE** through **HIS COUNSELS** as **THE PRIEST-KING!**

Have you **TRUSTED** the **MESSIAH** as your **PEACE? HE** has made **PEACE with HIS CROSS.** It must be found there with **HIM**, if you are to find it!