

Zechariah 6: 9-15

As we have now seen the curse unfold, we get a glimpse further into the future of God's plan as we look at this incident with Joshua. As we look at this we will see three layers to this prophesy

- 1) the near future fulfillment
- 2) the distant end time fulfillment
- 3) the spiritual application

v.10-11 This is the same Joshua we saw as high priest in chapter 3

v.12-13 near future- the people are being encouraged that the building of the temple in their time will be successful in spite of the trials that they are experiencing

Branch

**See Isaiah 11 and Isaiah 53:2**

Jeremiah 23:5

**2. (12-13) Prophecy of the BRANCH, who is both king and priest.**

- a. **Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!** . The **BRANCH** was associated with fruitfulness and life. Jesus used the same image when He said that He was the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5).

b. **Read Jeremiah 23 and Isaiah 11:1**

i. **Behold, the Man:** "In the Hebrew text the prophecy begins 'Behold the Man,' the very words Pilate used to present the beaten Christ to the people of Jerusalem: '*Ecce homo!*'" (Boice). But in Zechariah's vision it isn't the humiliated Jesus we are asked to **behold**, it is the triumphant Jesus.

b. **From His place He shall branch out:** This speaks of the fruitfulness and spreading life of the Messiah.

i. "He will come where there is little promise of new life, unexpectedly, like the root out of a dry ground." (Baldwin)

c. **And He shall build the temple of the LORD:** The **BRANCH** will rebuild the temple – not the same temple Zerubbabel worked on, but the temple of His people (Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:5).

d. **So He shall be a priest on His throne:** This was an unthinkable concept previously in Israel because priests did not sit on thrones and kings did not serve as priests. Nevertheless, the **BRANCH** is different; He rules as both a King and Priest.

### **Offices of King and Priest**

**See Hebrews 4 & 7 Through chapter 8 explaining future fulfillment**

B. The crowning of Joshua, the High Priest.

#### **1. (9-11) Command to make a crown for Joshua.**

**Receive the gift from the captives... who have come from Babylon:** As the refugees continued to return from exile they brought with them gifts from wealthy Babylon.

b. **Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah:** Taking the meaning of the names (**Heldai** means *robust*, **Tobijah** means *God's goodness*, and **Jedaiah** means *God knows*), McGee sees the intention that God knows that through His goodness, He will put His king on the throne, and He will do it in a robust manner.

c. **Make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua:** It was absolutely unusual to crown a **high priest**, because priests were never crowned as kings and kings were never priests.

i. 2 Chronicles 26 tells the tragic story of King Uzziah who tried to function as a priest, and was stricken with leprosy to the end of his life. Through the history of Israel God commanded a separation between the religious and the civil leadership of Israel.

ii. **Elaborate crown:** This was definitely a *royal crown* and was not the customary headdress of the high priest.

d. **On the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest:** There already was a strong, godly civil leader in Jerusalem named Zerubbabel. It seems like it would have made a lot more sense to crown Zerubbabel instead of **Joshua... the high priest**. But Joshua was crowned because a coming descendant of David to rule over Israel would be Jesus, prefigured by the high priest Joshua.

### **3. (14-15) The crown as a memorial.**

a. **Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial:** The LORD made it clear that the **crown** for Joshua was a picture of the ruling Priest-King in the future. God never intended for Joshua to take control as king in the Jerusalem of his day.

- c. **Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the LORD:**  
The **elaborate crown** spoke of something that would not happen for a long time in the future. Still, God's promised blessing in the future means that He wants the work to continue right now, and that He will bless the current work

#### **Spiritual application- we are the temple now being built**

*1 Cor. 6:19 through 1 Cor. 6:20 (NKJV) 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

#### **Close with Hebrews 6: 19-20**