

Zechariah 6:9-15 – A Crown for a Branch

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Handfuls, Henry, Phillip, JFB, INT, Clarke, Geneva, Poole, Trapp, Barnes, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: After the beautiful picture of chariots and horses (angels) going out to bring justice to the wicked, God's people were temporarily able to do the work of rebuilding the temple, restoring worship, and get ready for kingdom expansion.

But for the kingdom to expand beyond Jerusalem, the Jews would need more than angels, and more than the defeat of the Babylonians, Samaritans, and Edomites. They would need someone who could truly spread the kingdom...someone with great power. You will hear about him today...but you will hear about him in pictures.

Our headings are:

Christ's Work Symbolized

Christ's Work Realized

Christ's Work Memorialized

Our goals are: That you will see the work of the Royal High Priest who now rules and who has equipped you to serve under his direction to conquer the world.

Christ's Work Symbolized

9 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 10 "Receive the gift from the captives 俘虏 — from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon — and go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah. 11 "Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

1. God instructed Prophet Zechariah to receive the gifts from the captives who came from Babylon: Heldai (robust), Tobijah (goodness of God), and Jedaiah (God knows). These gifts were likely from the Jews that remained in Babylon, but who wanted to contribute to the building up of the temple. Yes, the people should have come back, but at least they knew what the people of God wanted: To rebuild the temple, restore worship, and ready themselves for kingdom expansion.

2. God urged Zechariah to take the gifts the very same day to Josiah, showing urgency to restore worship.

3. God instructed Josiah to make an elaborate crown (what a king normally wore) and put it on Joshua the High Priest's head because he represented Jesus who would be an exclusive person – a priest and a king together. (BTW, it is not insignificant 微不足道 that this priestly king had the same name as Jesus – “Joshua” in Greek). But listen to what the writer of Hebrews said about Jesus – priest + king. He was an exclusive king, so he deserved an elaborate crown. He was exclusive as Melchizedek was.

Hebrews 5:6 As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek";

Melchizedek meant “King of Righteousness.” He was king of Salem. He was also a priest of God who made sacrifices for Abram. In the old covenant a king was never to have dual offices. If he did, like Josiah and Saul, he would have been harshly judged by God, but in this case, two crowns were weaved in one – so it was “elaborate.” (The Hebrew literally says “crowns,” but it was translated “elaborate” to get the meaning.) This elaborate crown was like the crown of Jesus. And doesn’t Jesus have many crowns?

Revelation 19:12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns...

4. But why was this crown made of silver and gold, a composite? This was to show that Joshua's kingdom was semi-precious, not as precious as Messiah's kingdom. Messiah's crown was of gold. (Expensive)

5. Lessons:

a. There was one who was greater than Joshua...one greater than the temple...the Lord Jesus. Do you honor him?
Matthew 12:6 "Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple.

b. Do you have the same urgency...zeal...for the worship of God...as God urged...and for the spread of the kingdom?
You should. If you don't, you need to reflect again on who Jesus is and what he has done. You shouldn't have to drag yourself to worship! You must not be lethargic in spreading the truth.

Christ's Work Realized

12 "Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD;

1. First, the Lord used his judgment name—Lord of Hosts-to speak. God uses this name when someone was being conquered.

2. Unwittingly 不知不觉, Pilate acknowledged that Jesus was the one of whom Zechariah spoke-that special Man.

John 19:5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "**Behold the Man!**"

And the Father assigned a name to that special Man: Branch. He was called Branch because his start was insignificant.

As he grew up from the obscurity and poverty 默默无闻和贫困 of Nazareth, son of a carpenter – he grew into a majestic tree. But the use of the term “branch” also signifies that he was alive and grew. Sometimes the word “shoot” is used for “branch.”

3. So how would Branch branch out from “his place” and spread? He would conquer death and rise (branch out) from the dead.

And now you see why he is the “Lord of Hosts.” He killed death! And keep in mind that “his place” was “your place.” Your place was death and hell. That’s why Jesus had to die.

13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. **He shall bear the glory**, And shall **sit and rule on His throne;** So He shall be **a priest on His throne**, And the **counsel of peace shall be between them both.**"

4. After going from his place (rising from the dead) the branch would spread over the earth and build the church. This was not speaking of a literal building, of course. The literal temple building in Jerusalem only pictured the spiritual temple building.

Psalms 102:16 For the **LORD shall build up Zion**; He shall appear in His glory.

Isaiah 53:11 "O you afflicted one, Tossed with tempest, and not comforted, Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, And **lay your foundations** with sapphires 蓝宝石. 12 I will make your pinnacles 尖塔 of rubies, Your gates of crystal, And all your walls of precious stones. 13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children. 14 **In righteousness you shall be established...**

1Peter 2:5 you also, as **living stones, are being built up a spiritual house**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

So while **Zechariah urged the Jews to build the temple, the Lord Jesus was going to build the real temple.** Do you see how foolish it is for dispensationalists 时代论 to focus on the literal temple in Jerusalem and try to rebuild it? **As beautiful and important as the temple was, it was not the source of hope for Israel and the world.** Jesus will not come to Jerusalem to reign. He is in his temple now – you, the church.

5. Branch will then “bear the glory” of the new temple. Since Jesus died for his church he will get the glory of his church.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death **crowned with glory and honor**, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Isaiah 22:24 '**They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house**', the offspring and the posterity 后人, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers.

Isaiah 52:13 Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently 谨慎; **He shall be exalted and extolled** and be very high.

This was Isaiah 53: The Suffering Servant who was displayed to the world would bring liberty to slaves who would glorify him. **He took Adam's crown of thorns, but he would get crown of gold in heaven.**

6. Branch will sit and rule. This is now. Jesus is sitting, ruling at the right hand of God the Father. This means that his work is done.

He conquered death and hell. Now as his servants, you are to take this message to the world. **Even though the people of this world cast him out, yet he became the ruler of the world in a kingdom without end.**

Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and **He shall reign forever and ever!**"

Hebrews 8:1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a **High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne** of the Majesty in the heavens,

7. You see the success in the fact that there is peace between the Christ's priestly work – death on the cross – and the king – who defends his people and keeps them safe.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And **the government will be upon His shoulder.** And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**

Lessons:

a. You are now Christ's representatives on the earth. You are his kings and priests who will do the work of preaching – being a prophet to the world. Through you Christ's kingdom will expand.

Revelation 5:9 ... "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain 被杀, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

b. Your all-powerful King Jesus will protect you, body and soul, from all your enemies.

c. Jesus made peace between you and God. God's thoughts to you are now one of peace. God is no longer your enemy. (Think about the seriousness of this statement.)

Christ's Work Memorialized

14 "Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the LORD for Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

1. Christ's person was memorialized in the elaborate crown – interwoven with silver and gold. Joshua was a type of Christ...a king and a priest! (Didn't foreigners bring 3 kingly gifts to him?)

15 "Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the LORD. Then you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. And this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

2. Christ work was memorialized in the 3 men coming from a foreign to support worship. This was a picture of the nations coming to honor Jesus.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Isaiah 60:10 "The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you;

3. This memorial – after it came true – confirmed the Word spoken by God through Zechariah.

4. But this memorial – this reminder of God's salvation to the nations- was tied to obedience 服从. God's sovereign promises were wrapped up with human responsibility.

5. Lessons:

a. You, members of New Horizon, are part of God's promise to Zechariah realized. Jesus did the work of redeeming you, made peace between you and God, and sat down. And you now have perfect memorials of the work of Christ conquering the world in baptism and the Lord's Supper. Use these symbols. If you do, they will become a source of nourishment!

b. Now you are to build the temple under Jesus' direction. (David wanted to build the temple but God said no? Why? David was a man of war. God wanted a man of peace – Solomon – to do it.) And so it is with Jesus. He was peace. He made peace for you. Now you are the peacemakers! Are you working sufficiently? That is a question you must answer to God.

Conclusion:

The temple was rebuilt – a temple which pre-figured Jesus. Jesus' temple was destroyed. The temple rose again. The temple is now the ruler - the center of a kingdom – a kingdom in which you are a citizen.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Are you supporting the work of the kingdom of the one who redeemed you by his blood? And I am not merely talking about money. I am talking about your real life involvement in your family, church, and state. Are you a tree of life to the world?

2. Are you worshipping the one who now sits down on his throne, having completed the work of your redemption – and worshipping him in the way he commands?

3. These are the ways you bring glory to him – a glory he has a right to, but also a glory he earned.

Finally: If Christ's work is not realized in your life, you will go to hell. May you ask God to help you to know and believe that Jesus died on the cross for sinners. This call will save you from hell.