

Zechariah 6:9-15

July 20, 2022

II. The Night Visions (1:7-6:15)

I. Concluding Oracle (6:9-15)

The night visions – and thus the first section of Zechariah – conclude in 6:9-15 with another prophetic oracle. The LORD tells Zechariah to *receive the gift* from three men who are returning from Babylon (v. 10). This gift, evidently of *silver and gold*, was to be used to *make an elaborate crown* (v. 11), which would then be placed upon Joshua's head.

As we see in vv. 12-13, this act served to look forward to another Man who is yet to come on the scene – *the Man whose name is the BRANCH* (v. 12). The Branch came up before in 3:8, at which point we considered how Jesus is the *Branch of righteousness* (Jer 23:5-6; 33:15-16; cf. Isa 4:2; 11:1; Zech 6:12). He is the *Rod from the stem of Jesse* (Isa 11:1), a *King who shall reign and prosper* (Jer 23:5), who *shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth* (33:15). Charles Feinberg notes:

The picture of the Messiah in verses 12 and 13 has been hailed as the most inclusive and complete portrait of the coming King of Israel to be found in the pages of the Old Testament. It is a prophecy of surpassing beauty and importance (*The Minor Prophets*, 301).

Here in Zechariah 6, we see that *He shall branch out and He shall build the temple of the LORD* (v. 12) are looking into the future. The current work of rebuilding the Temple under Zerubbabel wasn't in mind! Evidently there'd be yet another building project in the future, and this Man the Branch would be responsible for it. Further details of this Temple are found in Ezekiel 40-48.

Not only that, but this Branch would *rule* as a king as well as serve as a *priest* (v. 13). This couldn't have happened under the Mosaic Covenant. After all, the priests under the Mosaic Covenant were to be of the tribe of Levi, and the kingly line was forever given to Judah (Gen 49:10), later narrowed down to David (2 Sam 7:16; Ps 89:3-4, 36-37).

This Branch, this future King-Priest, would need to operate under a different covenant in order to fit the bill. Thus we have the author of Hebrews going to great lengths to establish Jesus as the superior High Priest serving under a superior New Covenant. It's also seen in David's Psalm 110.

As we wrap up this chapter and this section, Zechariah tells us in v. 14 that the *crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the LORD*. It will be a perpetual reminder to the faithful Israelites that their Branch will one day come, and that they should *diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God* in the meantime (v. 15).

As we see throughout the Word of God, blessings come to God's people when they obey. Should they disobey, they shouldn't expect God's blessings. In order for Israel to reap the benefits of this King-Priest who rules over the land, they will need to obey the Lord. Fortunately for them, God Himself promised to bring about that necessary obedience through the provisions of the New Covenant.