

Zechariah 6:9-15

## Crown Him King of All

***Zechariah 6:1-5, "Then I turned and raised my eyes and looked, and behold, four chariots were coming from between two mountains, and the mountains were mountains of bronze. <sup>2</sup> With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, <sup>3</sup>with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses—strong steeds. <sup>4</sup>Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" <sup>5</sup>And the angel answered and said to me, "These are four spirits of heaven, who go out from their station before the Lord of all the earth."***

The chariots, or perhaps the unmentioned occupants of the chariots, are said to be four spirits of heaven, likely meaning four angelic beings—messengers of God.

There is a connection between this last vision and the first vision.

***Zechariah 1:8, "I saw by night, and behold, a man riding on a red horse, and it stood among the myrtle trees in the hollow; and behind him were horses: red, sorrel, and white."***

In the first vision the angelic beings, connected with these horses, were to go throughout the earth on a scouting mission, to assess the condition of the earth.

And now as the visions are nearing an end, Zechariah sees what seems to be the same angelic beings return, now equipped with war chariots. This time they will be sent out, not to scout out the earth, but to execute the judgments of God upon the nations.

There also seems to be a connection between these four spirits with horses, and the four riders on horses of the same four colors, described in Revelation 6:1-8, who unleash the first four seals of God's judgment upon the earth at the beginning of the Tribulation.

Yes, there are demonic powers of darkness very actively at work in the world today, but they are not in control.

There are stronger spiritual powers, sent by God, who are at work behind the scenes of what is going on in the political world today, whose mission is to ensure that the purposes of God are accomplished in bringing God's judgment upon the world.

God is in control, not the powers of darkness, and God's plan will be accomplished. Satan's plan to set up his own global kingdom in rebellion against God, will be frustrated and brought to an end.

The series of eight visions, which began with horses scouting the earth in chapter one, and ushering in judgment upon the earth in chapter six, is now followed in the last half of chapter six by a very significant symbolical event which is the crowning event of all of world history.

The last half of chapter six portrays what will follow the overthrow of world powers and the removal of all wicked people from the earth.

We have prophesied in the following verses, the crowning of the true King of kings who will set up His global kingdom and He will rule over the whole world.

***Zechariah 6:9-10, "Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: <sup>10</sup> "Receive the gift from the captives—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."***

These are three men who have just arrived from Babylon bringing with them gifts. This may be a foreshadowing of the wisemen who came from Babylon to Bethlehem, bearing gifts for the newborn King.

As we've seen before, there are layers of revelation in the following verses. Some of what is prophesied has already been fulfilled in the days of Zechariah.

However, the main focus of what follows describes what will happen when the Messiah returns to the earth, an event that we have many reasons to believe could take place in our lifetime.

***Zechariah 6:11, "Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest."***

This crowning of Joshua was to be a symbolic act, because first of all, Joshua was a high priest, of the family of Aaron, and only a descendant of David could ever rule as king.

And secondly, we know from history that Joshua never ruled as king over Israel—in fact there has been no Jewish king in Israel since the time Israel went into captivity in Babylon.

So, let's look for clues to interpret the meaning of this prophecy.

Remember that the name Joshua is Hebrew for the Greek name, Jesus. An elaborate crown was to be placed on the head of a high priest named, Jesus.

In the New Testament book of Hebrews, eleven times Jesus is described as our High Priest.

For example, ***Hebrews 4:14***, "*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God...*"

All the events prophesied in the first six chapters of Zechariah and laid out for us in sequential order of when they will take place in history.

This symbolic act of putting a crown on the head of a high priest named Joshua [Gk. Jesus] was prophetically pointing toward the future when a High Priest, named Jesus, would be crowned King.

And He will be crowned King after the fulfilment of the global judgment, known as the Tribulation, which is prophesied to come upon all the earth, in the last three visions in Zechariah chapters five and six.

The prophecy continues in ***Zechariah 6:12***, "*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..."*"

Here we have confirmation that verse 11 is about Jesus Christ. The word *Branch* is a Messianic title that is used four times in the Old Testament to refer to the coming Messiah.

In these verses there are several very specific prophesies about the Messiah—the coming King. Notice how the Lord introduces the King to Zechariah, immediately after Joshua/Jesus has had a crown placed upon his head, "Behold the Man".

Three times this expression, "Behold the Man," is used in the Bible. First in reference to Adam, representative of the human race, when he failed the test and sinned (Gen. 3:22); then in this prophecy referring to Jesus as the future King.

And the next time the expression is used, is in John chapter 19, to describe Jesus, the second Adam, the Man par excellence, who did not fail the test, and was without sin.

***John 19:1-5***, "*So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. <sup>2</sup> And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. <sup>3</sup> Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.*

<sup>4</sup> *Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."*

<sup>5</sup> *Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "**Behold the Man!**"*

Isn't that amazing, how everything is so meaningfully connected in God's word?

Studying scripture can be like the challenge some of you enjoy of going to one of these locked rooms, where you have to search for clues that help you solve the mystery...

Secondly, in **Zechariah 6:12**, the Man, Jesus, is referred to as the BRANCH. In chapter 3:8, Zechariah has already once before described Jesus, in the context of His crucifixion, as, “*My Servant the BRANCH.*”

In **Isaiah 4:2**, prophesying about the second coming of Christ after the Tribulation, Isaiah describes the Messiah as, “*the Branch of the Lord.*”

Look at what else Zechariah says about the BRANCH in **Zechariah 6:12**, “*Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!* [can also be translated as, the Shoot] *From His place He shall branch out...*”

This describes a plant that grows and spreads out.

In **John 15:5**, Jesus described Himself there also as a plant, and His disciples/the church, as branches growing out from Him. “*I am the vine, you are the branches.*”

So Zechariah is prophesying the branching out, and spreading out of the body of Christ—His church.

And what else does the Bible describe the followers, or the church of Christ as? We are described as the Temple of His Holy Spirit. (c.f., 1Peter 2:5; Eph. 2:19-22)

We'll look at what Zechariah says next, after saying that the BRANCH shall branch out.

**Zechariah 6:12b-13a**, “*And He shall build the temple of the Lord; Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord.*”

In **Matthew 16:18**, Jesus said, “*I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*”

In Zechariah it is repeated twice that the Branch would build the temple of the Lord. Perhaps implying that there are two aspects to this.

This is not only referring only to Jesus building the church, but let's interpret this in its context in the sequence of prophecies given in Zechariah.

This is describing an event that will take place after the Tribulation. The Branch (Jesus) shall literally build a physical temple of the Lord in Jerusalem, after His second coming. This will take place during the Millennium.

The Temple in the Millennium is described by Isaiah the prophet as the Lord's house—His dwelling place.

It will have a governing function, for ruling the nations; people from all the nations will come to the Millennial temple for prayer and worship and also to receive teaching (Isaiah 2:2-4; 56:6-7).

**Zechariah 6:13**, “*Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory...*”

The next prophecy about Jesus the King is that He shall bear or carry the glory.

Glory refers to the majesty, greatness, brilliance and splendor of God. Colossians 2:9 tells us that in Jesus Christ dwells all the fulness of the Godhead.

At the second coming of Christ, unlike His first coming, there will be nothing humble, weak or lowly about His appearance or arrival.

He will come with an awesome display of intense majesty the likes of which has never been displayed on the earth and He will receive all the honor that is due Him.

**1Peter 5:11**, “*To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*”

How should we respond to such a King who came to earth humbly the first time to die in our place so that He might save us, who conquered the power of hell and of death by rising to life from the grave, and who is coming again to rule this world as King of kings and Lord of lords? How should we respond to such a King?

**Philippians 2:8-11**, “*He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which*

*is above every name,<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Again, I ask, how should we respond to such a King?

**Romans 12:1**, *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”*

*In Mark 8:34, Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, and take up our cross, and follow Him as our Lord and Master.*

**Zechariah 6:13b**, *“...And shall sit and rule on His throne...”*

Our Queen Elizabeth II sits on a throne, but she does not rule with power or authority. When Jesus comes, He will not merely sit, as a figurehead on a throne, but He will exercise absolute authority and unlimited power over every square inch of this planet, and over the universe beyond.

At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus will have removed Satan and his demons from the Earth and Jesus will reclaim the planet as its Creator-Redeemer, and He will sit on the throne of His forefather David, and He will rule over all that He has created, with perfect goodness and justice and love.

**Luke 1:32–33**, (The angel’s prophecy to Mary the mother of Jesus) *“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.<sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob [Israel] forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”*

Look at Psalm 72, where King Solomon prophetically describes what the Millennial Reign of Jesus the Messiah will be like. Keep in mind, this is not describing heaven, there will still be people born and living during the Millennium who are not born again; but they will all be under the rule of a perfect King for one thousand years, before God creates a new heaven and a new earth.

And we who are born again, are going to be part of God’s government and leadership over this earth during this time.

**Psalm 72:2**, *“He will judge Your people with righteousness... (Every decision of the King will be good and right—no mistakes or need for apology—ever!)*

**4**, *“He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor. (Imagine a world where there is no injustice, or people taken advantage of, or treated unfairly.)*

**7**, *“In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace [security, safety and prosperity], until the moon is no more.*

**8**, *“He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth. (Imagine a world in which God’s will is done everywhere)*

**11**, *“Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Imagine a world where all nations and leaders of the world respect and honor and serve the Lord Jesus.)*

**12**, *“For He will deliver the needy when he cries, the poor also, and him who has no helper. (He will be a King who listens to the needs and concerns of all the people. No one is ignored or neglected by their King.)*

**14**, *“He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; and precious shall be their blood in His sight. (Everyone in His Kingdom will be loved and valued by the King.)*

**16**, *“There will be an abundance of grain in the earth... (Hunger will be eradicated on earth—everyone will have all that they need to be content and happy.)*

17, "...And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed."

**Zechariah 6:13c, "...So He shall be a priest on His throne..."**

Here it is prophesied that the Messiah will be both a priest and a King.

We already saw that the book of Hebrews eleven times calls Jesus our High Priest.

**Zechariah 6:13d, "...And the counsel of peace shall be between them both."**

Who are the two people that are referred to here as, between them both? There are only two people who have been mentioned in this verse, the BRANCH who is Jesus, and the LORD, referring to His Father.

The counsel of peace refers to a discussion, and agreement between the two of them to work out a plan of action that will accomplish peace with those who have been enemies.

This prophecy says that the Father and the Son counseled together and agreed on a way to obtain peace for us who have been enemies of God.

What was the essence of that counsel between the Father and the Son?

**John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

**Zechariah 6:15b, "... 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."**

In this verse, Zechariah has one final promise, "**And this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God.**"

At first glance, God's promise seems conditional and based on their obedience to the Lord.

However, both Messiah's rule and the Millennial Temple's construction are settled in God's sovereign plan—that will unquestionably come to pass.

But your participation in the blessings of the Millennial Kingdom will depend on your obedience to the Lord's voice calling you today.

Look at the vision the Apostle John was given of the second coming of Christ.

**Revelation 19:11-16, "Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. <sup>16</sup> And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."**

The second coming of Jesus will strike irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature.

It will be too late then to choose your side. There is no use saying you choose to bow down then, when it has become impossible to stand up. (C.S. Lewis)

Today is the day of salvation. Today you must decide on which side of Christ you will be when He returns—will you be among the host of heaven behind Him as His follower?

Or will you fall before Him as His conquered foe?

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