

Post-Exile Prophets: Zechariah  
**THE MAJESTIC BRANCH**

Friday, July 4

Reading: Zechariah 6:11-13

**Zechariah 6:12** *'Here is the Man whose name is the Branch, and He will branch out from His place and build the temple of the LORD. 13 It is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on His throne. And He will be a Priest on His throne. And there will be harmony between the two.*

It is interesting that the high priest Joshua is the one God chose to symbolize the coming Messiah. His name means “the LORD is salvation” (Yeshua). In Greek, the name is translated as Jesus. Joshua’s very name pointed to the One who would fulfill the salvation and promises of God.

This is the second time Zechariah has pointed us to “the Branch.” In his 4<sup>th</sup> night vision, the prophet saw the Branch as the Servant of God and the Stone who would “remove the sin of this land in a single day” (3:8-9). This Branch is a picture of the coming King from the family line of David (Isaiah 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5-6). Now the Branch (Hebrew *ṣemāḥ*) will branch out (Hebrew *ṣāmāḥ*) and build God’s temple.

That this Branch is not Joshua or Zerubbabel is obvious from the prophet’s description. He is “clothed with majesty.” This word is often used to describe the glory and splendor of God (see Psalm 8:1; 96:6; 104:1; 148:3). He is also said to be “a priest on His throne.” Joshua and Zerubbabel never sat on thrones. In fact, priests were forbidden to rule as kings. But the Branch will be both King and Priest. Both roles will be combined in one Person – the Lord Jesus Christ. He will bring “harmony between the two.” The word “harmony” comes from the Hebrew word ‘*shalom*,’ meaning peace.

As our Priest-King, the Lord Jesus has the authority to rule (King) and the ability to bring people to God (Priest). The New Testament book of Hebrews says,

We do have such a High Priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being. (Hebrews 8:1-2)

But when this Priest [Jesus] had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time He waits for His enemies to be made His footstool. For by one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. (Hebrews 10:12-14)

Zechariah says that this King-Priest will “build the temple of the LORD.” When Jesus returns, prophecy tells us of a physically restored temple in Jerusalem during His Millennial reign. But this statement reminds us of another “temple” that Jesus is building today.

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?” (1 Corinthians 3:16)<sup>1</sup>

We are God’s temple today, displaying God’s presence in the midst of a mixed up world; sharing the message of salvation in Jesus to those around us.

<sup>1</sup> see also 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:21.