

ZECHARIAH

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Zechariah chapter 4 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Zechariah was a post exilic prophet who came on the scene to encourage the people, to give them a future and a hope in the Lord even though things may not look good at this point. You see, the name Zechariah means, “*YAHWEH remembers*” and that was an encouragement to the people, that God would fulfill the promises He made to His people.

Last week we begin looking at a series of eight visions that Zechariah had and we covered four of them. This evening we will continue looking at these visions and we will be looking at the last four. So with that as our background, let’s begin reading in Zechariah chapter 4 beginning in verse 1 and let’s see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

ZECHARIAH 4

VERSES 1-3

1. As you read about these eight visions that Zechariah had it would appear that they were given to him all in one night. And thus, with the four he received so far he was tired and he went to sleep.

Then, this angel came back and awoke him out of his sleep and he is a little groggy, and as he is looking he sees this fourth fifth vision. And keep in mind that these visions were to encourage the people to continue on in the work, not to give up because the Lord is with them and He will see them through!

So as Zechariah looks he sees a solid gold seven branched oil burning lamp. Now when the Tabernacle was built, that portable worship structure that followed the children of Israel during their wilderness wanderings, they placed a seven branched oil burning lamp in the holy place, to the left of the altar of incense, just before the holy of holies, (Exodus 25:31-40).

Then, when Solomon built the Temple, he placed 10 of these seven branched oil burning lamps in the holy place, 5 on each side, (I Kings 7:49). And the priests were responsible for keeping the oil in the lamps so the lamps would not go out. It was a big responsibility. They not only had to fill these lamps with oil but they had to clean the soot and trim the wicks.

But in this vision Zechariah sees something that is far different with these lamps and the oil. Here Zechariah sees two olive trees next to this seven branched oil burning lamp and according to Zechariah 4:12 the oil is being fed to these lamps by these trees directly!

What in the world is that all about? Well, don't fret, Zechariah is going to ask that question. Let's read on and see how this plays out.

VERSES 4-5

1. I like this little encounter here that Zechariah has with this angel. After he is given this vision he tells that angel that he does not know what it means. And the angel basically says, "Really Zechariah, you don't know what it means?" And Zechariah said, "**No, my lord.**"

It would seem that he should have known what this meant but he didn't and the angel is going to tell him because this is important. It is not for Zechariah to come up with his ideas of what this meant but there is a meaning to this and he needed to get it right.

2. How often people don't know what they should know or they come up with their own interpretations of things. We see this in Matthew chapter 19 as Jesus has this encounter with the religious leaders regarding marriage. In Matthew 19:4-6 we are told, **“And He answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning “made them male and female,” and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.’”**

Again, Jesus, in speaking to the religious leaders about marriage and what that was all about, He rebuked them for not knowing that the Scriptures taught about marriage. He said to them, **“Have you not read.”** In other words, it is in the Scriptures, they should have known what marriage was all about according to what God has said and not what man has said!

How true that is for us today. There are many today who feel they can make the Scriptures say whatever they want them to say but they have not read what the Scriptures are truly teaching. And let me make this personal. If you are reading the Scriptures and you are having a hard time understanding something, pray about it, ask God to help you and the answer may not come immediately, but wait upon Him before you come to a foolish conclusion.

Let me share this with you because it was a problem and it is still a problem today. We are told,

I Remember reading years ago, a good illustration of this found in the Jewish Talmud. One Rabbi was trying to convince his people that the primary issue in life is concern for other human beings. That's good, good point. We oughta be concerned about other human beings, but he wanted to illustrate it and so he took 'em to the Tower of Babel and he told them that the stones of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, the building of that through the carrying of those stones illustrated his point. He said that the builders of the tower were frustrated because they put material things first and people last.

Now where is that in Genesis? "Well," he said, "as the tower grew taller, it took a hod carrier or a stone carrier many hours to carry a load of stones up. The higher it got, the longer the walk." And he said, "If a man fell off the tower on the way down, nobody cared because you only lost a man, not the bricks. But if he fell off on the way up, they mourned because the bricks were lost. And that," said the Rabbi, "is why God confused their language, because they failed to give priority to human beings over bricks." Now, none of that can be found in Genesis 11, none of that can be found in the Bible. In fact, it totally skews the meaning of Genesis 11. It is true, people are more important than bricks, but that is not the point of the Tower of Babel. Genesis 11 says absolutely nothing about the importance of people or bricks. The point is God is more important than idols, and God will judge idolatry.

I remember being at a Bible conference in Wisconsin one time. And I got into the Bible conference with another well known preacher, and we were preaching every night, and one day we were eating lunch, and I said, "What are you gonna preach on tonight?" He said, "I'm gonna preach on the rapture of the church." I said, "Really? The rapture of the church, great. What's your text?" He said, "John 11." I said, "What?" He said, "John 11." I said, "John 11, the rapture of the church isn't in John 11." He said, "You wait and see tonight." I said, "Fine, fine." That night he preached on the rapture from John 11. That's the resurrection of Lazarus.

He allegorized it, Lazarus was the church, Martha was the Old Testament saints and Mary was the tribulation saints and he got this thing goin'. And the people were just sitting there saying, "Deep, deep." You know, they were just thinkin' this is the profoundest thing. They couldn't find it anywhere. They thought he was goin' deeper than they had capability to go. And afterwards he said to me, "Have you ever seen that in John 11?" To which I replied as kindly as I could, "No one has ever see that in John 11." And he took it as a compliment. The next night he said, "John MacArthur told me that no one but me had ever seen that in John 11."

Now, I don't wanna argue with the rapture of the church, but I will argue that the rapture of the church is not in John 11, and if you're gonna make John 11 say something that is true, then you're just as likely to make John 11 say something that what? That isn't true. That is not the way you approach Scripture.

- <http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/90-55/proper-biblical-interpretation>

Zechariah did not know what this meant and he was not embarrassed or too proud to say that. May we be like Zechariah and seek the truth of God found in the Word of God and not our own ideas of what the Scriptures are teaching.

3. Let's read on and see what this angel tells Zechariah about this vision.

VERSES 6-7

1. This was important for Zechariah to understand and I believe it is important for us to understand. Keep in mind that Zerubbabel was the civic leader in Jerusalem and his responsibility was to finish the work of rebuilding the Temple. The problem was that the work was stalled and Zerubbabel needed encouragement to carry on the work and as he began others would join in and assist in the work of God.

And don't lose sight of how bad things were. The Temple area was a mess. You could work all day and it would look like nothing was done. And yet, God is going to encourage His people. But how is He going to do that, the work is overwhelming and they did not have the strength, the power to do it!

Keep in mind the vision that Zechariah was given. It spoke of the oil and the lamps. In the Scriptures oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit and we might think of the lamps as our lives. Thus, the picture is being filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the work of God!

In other words, **“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.”**

Now look at the picture that is being painted for us here. Back in Zechariah chapter 3 we saw the High Priest, Joshua clothed in filthy garments and the Lord clothed him with rich robes, white robes. In other words, it is a picture of salvation as the filth of sin has been removed from our lives and we are seen as white as snow because of the shed blood of Christ applied to our lives by faith!

So first you are saved and now, here in Zechariah chapter 4 we see this empowerment for service. And guess what, the Temple was completed some four years from this period of time! Not by their might. Not by their power. But by the Spirit of God working in them and through them! God wanted Zerubbabel to know, to understand that God will continually fill him with His Spirit, He will give him the strength he needs to accomplish this great work! Talk about your encouragement!

How does this relate to us? Very simply, if we try to accomplish the work of God in our strength, out of our own resources, we are only going to become frustrated and discouraged. The work will be overwhelming to us. But, if we allow God's Spirit to work in us and through us, what seems to be mountains in your life will be leveled, the work will be completed.

Let me ask you this. What mountains are in your life? Are things so difficult that you are thinking of giving up? Does it seem like your labor is in vain? Maybe you are trying to accomplish the work in your own might, your own strength. You need to give it to the Lord. You need to allow God to move those mountains in your life!

In Matthew 17:20 Jesus said “**. . . ‘I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’**” Now these may not be literal mountains, but those obstacles and oppositions that come upon you, and God is saying He will remove them from your life, all we need to do is give it to Him!

And let's think about this for a minute. Look at your life, maybe you are seeing it as a mess like the ruins of the Temple. Things are strewn all over the place and you don't even know where to begin!

First of all, if you are not saved that is the first place you need to begin. You are clothed in filthy rags and you need to come to Jesus, repent of your sins and ask Him to be Lord and Savior of your life. As soon as you do He will remove those filthy rags and clothe you in white robes, you will be seen as white as snow. Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 5:21, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

Now, once you are saved you are living out your faith and let’s face it, life is messy! I am sorry, it just is and for some it is worse than others but it is just messy. And what we do is we try to clean it up, we try to fix it, we try to do this and we try to do that and guess what, we fail. Why do we fail? Because ***“WE”*** try to fix it!

Here is the wonderful thing, God wants to work in your life, He wants to clean you up, He wants to fix things and He will if you let Him. Remember, that God has begun this good work in us, we are saved but it does not stop there. He not only began this good work but He will finish it!

What we need to do is surrender our lives to Him, surrender to the Holy Spirit’s leading and understand that it is **“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the LORD of hosts.** That continual flow of the Holy Spirit in our lives empowering us to accomplish great things through Him!

And I love how verse 7 ends here in Zechariah chapter 4, “**... And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’**” Think about that. Our life will end, He will cap it off you might say, with shouts of grace and I am thankful for that because I do not deserve anything that the Lord has given me but by His grace I enter in. What an encouragement for Zerubbabel and what an encouragement for us! Through the work of God’s Spirit in our lives the work will be accomplished!

VERSES 8-10

1. Notice the encouraging words. Yes, Zerubbabel began the work of rebuilding the Temple, and with God’s power working in and through Zerubbabel the work will be completed. Keep in mind that this prophecy was given some 4 years before the Temple was completed. Thus, when this prophecy came to pass the people would see that Zechariah is a prophet of God. And what an encouragement for the people as they see what God had promised them come to pass!

2. Now in verse 10 it says, “**For who has despised the day of small things.**” What was that about? Maybe some of the people were remembering what Solomon’s Temple was like. What the days of prosperity were like compared to the difficult times they now are encountering. And that could be very discouraging!

But we see here that God is telling them not to despise these days, but to use those times to grow, to mature.

What a powerful lesson in our own lives. I think as Christians we tend not to like the days of preparation; we want it now! We want it big, we want all of it and that is not always how God works.

First of all, God needs to work in you to prepare you for the work. Don't despise the days of small things but thank God for them and for His preparing you for the work! And you just don't realize what God is doing, how powerful those small things truly are in our lives and how they impact others. I think Satan fears those small things that God is doing because in those small things God is working in us, teaching us, helping us to grow and trust in Him and we need to be careful not to despise those times.

Spurgeon put it like this, "God accepts your little works if they are done in faith in his dear Son. God will give success to your little works: God will educate you by your little works to do greater works; and your little works may call out others who shall do greater works by far than ever you shall be able to accomplish." May we not forget that but walk by faith and see what the Lord will do in us and through us by the power of His Spirit working in our lives!

3. Now in the last part of verse 10 it speaks of the eyes of the Lord and the seven eyes of the Lord speak of His omniscience or that He is all-knowing. We see this thought of God watching over people in II Chronicles chapter 16.

In this story we see that King Asa had just won a great victory over the Ethiopians by trusting in the Lord. But then the Northern Kingdom of Israel is threatening them and Asa got nervous and sided with the Syrian King, Ben-Hadad, to help him fight against them.

And Asa was victorious but the Lord was not pleased with his lack of trust or Asa trusting in the strength of man instead of the Lord. Thus, in II Chronicles 16:9 we are told, "**For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.**"

You see, the Lord is looking for men who will trust in Him, not in anything else. Why? Because then He can show Himself strong through them. God is looking for people who will surrender their lives unto Him so that He may not only flow in them but through them by His Spirit, doing mighty works!

4. Now this plumb line given to Zerubbabel is speaking of the work that he needed to do. Yes, God could have just spoken and finished the work but He didn't! He wanted Zerubbabel to do the work and the same is true in our own lives.

Too many Christians are just sitting around not doing anything and expecting God to do some great miracle and the miracle that God wants to do is work through you and not apart from you. Thus, understand that He is watching, don't despise the small things but do all that God is calling you to do and understand that if He called you to do a work He will finish it through you as well!

VERSES 11-14

1. Remember when we started out that Zechariah wanted to know what this seven branched oil burning lamp and these two olive trees were all about. And the angel then gave the encouragement to Zerubbabel about building the Temple and it is related to this vision but Zechariah was not sure how. So he asks again what this lamp and two olive trees mean.

First of all we see this speaking of Joshua, who was the High Priest and Zerubbabel who was the governor, they were spirit filled men you might say!

Secondly I believe that this is looking into the future, during the time of the Tribulation Period as God raises up two witnesses, who are probably Moses and Elijah. But again, I don't think that is the complete fulfillment.

I will give you two other ways to look at this. The two olive trees could be representing Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Remember what Jesus said in John 15:5, "**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**"

Jesus said that He is the vine and we are the branches. Thus, as we are attached to the vine, to the tree the oil of the Holy Spirit flows into our lives empowering us for the work of God. Also, in the Kingdom Age when Jesus Christ rules and reigns, keep in mind that He is our King and Priest, we will reign with Him from the throne of David! So both seem to fit and they both apply here I believe and we will see that as we close chapter 6 this evening with Jesus being both King and Priest in the Kingdom Age!

ZECHARIAH 5

VERSES 1-4

1. Here we see the next vision that Zechariah sees and it is right after this last one of the golden lampstand and the olive trees. As this vision ends it seems that he turned his head and looked up and as Zechariah looks up he sees this giant scroll, 30 feet by 15 feet, flying through the sky. And on this scroll was writing on both sides. In the Torah or the first five books of Moses, from Genesis to Deuteronomy, we see blessings for obedience and curses for disobedience to the Word of God.

Also keep in mind that a scroll is used many times of the Word of God and specifically here I believe it is speaking of the Ten Commandments. You see, it speaks of the “**thief**” which deals with man’s relationship with man or the second table of the Law. It speaks of the “**perjurer**” and to perjure was to dishonor God because you had sworn in his name and thus, this deals with the first table of the Law or man’s relationship with God.

This is what the Law does, it convicts man, it shows man that He is guilty and without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. In Psalm 50:16-23 we see God’s response to man’s wickedness and to man’s obedience to Him. We are told, “**But to the wicked God says: ‘What right have you to declare My statutes, or take My covenant in your mouth, Seeing you hate instruction and cast My words behind you? When you saw a thief, you consented with him, and have been a partaker with adulterers. You give your mouth to evil, and your tongue frames deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother’s son. These things you have done, and I kept silent; you thought that I was altogether like you; but I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes. Now consider this, you who forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver: Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.’**”

God’s desire is for man to repent of his sin and turn to God because God gets no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He wants to save man but He won’t force man to come to Him. And thus, in this giant scroll we see that it contains cursing’s and it is meant to be seen by all as it is flying through the sky, this is the judgment of God upon sinful man!

And as I have said, what we see written on this scroll comes from the two tables of the Law. Thou shall not steal comes from Exodus 20:15 and thou shall not take the Lord's name in vain comes from Exodus 20:7. Thus, we see this judgment come against man for his dealings with his fellow man - the second table of the Law, and his dealings with God - the first table of the Law.

And this judgment will be seen in its complete fulfillment in the Tribulation Period when God pours out His wrath upon a Christ rejecting world. And please understand this, man is totally aware of his behavior, his relationship with God or non-relationship, there is no excuse. So, in a sense, a flying scroll is flying across the sky, people have been warned, they have just chosen to ignore or say no to God!

Then why do so many today have no problem flaunting their sin if they know what is right and what is wrong? Because they have hardened their heart so much towards God that they have become insensitive or they have no feeling of what is right and what is wrong anymore. And that is a dangerous place to be because you knew what was right and you have chosen to ignore that truth that God has placed in your conscience and you have seared it with a hot iron you might say.

You have made yourself insensitive to what is right and what is wrong and in the end you will be judged because not only has God placed that in your conscience but also in His Word. And as God's Word shows us what is right and what is wrong and you ignore it, when your conscience shows you what is right and what is wrong and you harden yourself to it, you will be judged accordingly.

VERSES 5-11

1. In this next vision Zechariah sees this basket and in this basket is a woman who is symbolic of wickedness in this picture. And wickedness is shut up in this basket and a lead lid is placed over it so she can't get out. She is then carried in the air by two women to the land of Shinar or Babylon. A very strange vision indeed and what does it all mean?

Think about wickedness, materialism, evil and where it really got its start! Yes, we can argue the Garden of Eden or with Satan himself when he rebelled against God and even prior to the flood. But what about a world-wide rebellion, where did it get its start after the flood? I think we can say it was at the Tower of Babel when man rebelled against God and that wickedness, that materialism, that evil spread out throughout the whole world!

Now let's put this into perspective and relate this to the Jews and the future. First of all, the children of Israel were brought into captivity for their idolatry. They had turned from God and God warned them and they refused to repent and return to the Lord. Thus, God judged them and used the Babylonians as instruments of His judgment. They went into captivity for seventy years in Babylon.

Secondly, in Babylon they learned various business trades like banking and-so-on. And this godless commercialism they became obsessed with. So it would seem that the wickedness spoken of here deals with idolatry and commercialism.

And thus, God is purging it from the land of Israel and carrying it away to Babylon. Why? Again, remember what I said about the Tower of Babel. This area, Babylon, was the area that Nimrod began false worship and it became a commercial center, and you can read of this in the book of Genesis.

Now we can take a look into the future and see how Babylon is going to once again be the commercial center for the world. You can read of this in Revelation chapters 17 and 18 and God calls this false religious system, ***BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.***

Listen to what Babylon is like starting in verse 2 of Revelation chapter 18 as God is going to destroy this commercial center in one hour. We are told, **“And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.’ . . . The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’ And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: *merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.* The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great**

city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.’ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, ‘What is like this great city?’ They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.’ Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!’ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, ‘Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.’” Revelation 18:1-2, 9-20.

And thus, we see that God is going to destroy the false commercial system, destroying it in one hour and the earth will mourn but heaven will rejoice because this wickedness will be removed from the land! So in this vision it seems that Zechariah is seeing God cleanse the land of Israel and He is preparing to judge this false commercial system that is filled with wickedness! The final judgment is coming!

ZECHARIAH 6

VERSES 1-3

1. Here is the eighth and final vision that Zechariah saw in one night. Now some come up with more visions than the eight, it depends on what they count as visions. But I think there were only eight and like I have said, these visions were seen in one night!

In this vision we see four chariots being pulled by horses of different colors. And these four chariots were coming between two mountains of bronze. They could represent Mount Zion and the Mount of Olives but the main point here is that God is going to judge the world as bronze is a metal of judgment. So this has something to do with God's judgment coming upon man, and we will see that.

Now these four chariots and horses do not represent the four world Empires that Daniel speaks of in Daniel chapter 2 and Daniel chapter 7. I believe they are speaking of the four horsemen of the apocalypse spoken of in Revelation chapter 6 and I will show you why.

First of all, one writer put it like this in regards to what we see here and how they are what John wrote about, "In the usual Scriptural symbolism *red* speaks of *war*, *black* of *famine* and *death*, *white* of *victory*, and *grizzled* of *pestilence* (Ezekiel 14:21, Revelation 6:18)." (Luck)

And as you are aware, in the book of Revelation we see God's wrath poured out upon a Christ rejecting world and then the Lord returns to setup His Kingdom on this earth. And keep in mind that the rider on the white horse is not Jesus Christ but it is the Antichrist who comes on the scene to bring peace to a world that is in the midst of destroying itself. Of course it is a false peace as this man brings about wars, famine, death, pestilence and-so-on! God will use this man to bring about His judgment upon the world!

VERSES 4-8

1. Now as you read this it seems that these chariots are speaking of angels and not representing the judgments of God that we read about in Revelation chapter 6. But keep in mind that as you read the book of Revelation God is pouring out His judgment but you will also notice that He uses angels to bring these judgments forth or to unleash them and I think that is what we are seeing here. These angels are unleashing, you might say, these chariots and horses to bring about this judgment of God.

2. Another point is that these chariots and horses seem to go in specific directions and not through the whole earth. They may have a specific mission in those areas but as we can see in Zechariah 6:7, they go throughout the whole earth. Listen again to what verse 7 of Zechariah chapter 6 says, **“Then the strong steeds went out, eager to go, that they might walk to and fro throughout the earth. And He said, ‘Go, walk to and fro throughout the earth.’ So they walked to and fro throughout the earth.”**

So I think this is pretty clear, this judgment is for the whole earth. Revelation 3:10 makes that point as it says, **“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”** As Christians we are not earth dwellers but our citizenship is in heaven. Thus, this judgment is not for us but for the earth dwellers and they will not escape the judgment of God apart from Christ in their lives!

3. One more point before we move on and that deals with what verse 8 says “**See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country.**” What is that about? I think the idea here is that God’s Spirit is at rest when the enemies of God and His people are judged. So as God looks upon the judgment that is brought forth, He is satisfied.

VERSES 9-11

1. Keep in mind that Babylon was wealthy and yes the Babylonians were defeated by the Medes and the Persians but the city itself remained a wealthy city under this new government. And as more Jewish captives returned home to Jerusalem they brought with them silver and gold!

And God is instructing them to take the silver and gold from these three returning captives from Babylon and use the silver and gold to make this crown for Joshua the High Priest. We only know their names and what they did, and that is all, for the focus is the Priest/King and the crown he is wearing.

Now this really does not make sense when you think about it. Why would they crown Joshua with who was the High Priest and not Zerubbabel as he was the governor of Jerusalem? There is a very good reason for this as we shall see.

What is interesting to me is that there are some liberal critics of the Bible who see this as an error but it is not. You see, as we read on we are going to see a descendant of David who will rule and that is the Priest and King Jesus Christ! Let’s read on and you will see what I mean.

VERSES 12-13

1. Boice makes this interesting observation regarding the verses we have read. He wrote, “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)

What is interesting is that Pilate used those words as words of humiliation but not Zechariah. These words are used to exalt the Lord as both King and Priest!

Now let’s think this through for a minute. They are crowning Joshua as King and Priest but only as a type, only as a picture. You see, the name Joshua, Jesus in the Greek, means ***YAHWEH IS SALVATION!*** Thus, Joshua is symbolic of our King and Priest, Jesus Christ!

Why do I say that? First of all, the man is called the ***BRANCH!*** It is a title for Jesus, the Messiah. In Isaiah 11:1-2 we read “**There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.**”

Also, it is the Messiah who will rebuild the Millennial Temple and His glory will fill it as He sits on the throne of David as King and Priest. We see this spoken of in Isaiah 2:2-4, which says, **“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”**

As a Priest, we see this spoken of in Psalm 110:4, **“The LORD has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’”** Notice, He is not a priest from the Levitical priesthood, for Jesus came from the tribe of Judah. But He is a priest from the order of Melchizedek, who was not only King of Salem, but also Priest!

And for the position of King, we see that spoken of in Psalm 110:1, which says **“The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’”**

And thus, this Branch is far different for He will rule as King and Priest as this looks ahead to the Millennial Kingdom and Jesus!

2. One other point before we move on. The Jews clearly understand this passage to be speaking of the Messiah. Thus, they are looking for their Messiah to be a man who will help them rebuild their Temple as Zechariah tells us.

And things have not changed much today. You see, if you were to ask a Jew today who is looking for the Messiah and you ask them if they believe they Messiah is coming, they will tell you they do believe that He is coming and that He will be a man. Now there are many men out there how will they know which one? And like I have said, they will say that this man will help them rebuild their Temple!

That is an amazing statement when you consider what Jesus said in John 5:43. He said, **“I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.”** Who will they believe? They rejected the true Messiah, Jesus Christ, and they will listen to the Antichrist who will come on the scene and make a peace treaty with them, which includes the rebuilding of their Temple.

In Daniel 9:27 we are told, **“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”**

The **“he”** spoken of here is the Antichrist, and the **“many”** is an idiom for the Jews. This covenant has to do with the rebuilding of the Temple and not only with the rebuilding of it but they will restart the sacrifices.

You see, Daniel tells us that at the end of the 3½ years of the 7-year Tribulation Period, he will break this covenant and stop the sacrifices in the Temple, demanding to be worshiped as god.

Jesus, as well as Daniel, calls this event the abomination of desolation. And when the Jews see their error, they will flee for their lives to the rock city of Petra, where God will protect them for the last 3½ years, until the Lord Himself comes back to set up His Kingdom. And as we have read, **“So He shall be a priest on His throne.”**

VERSES 14-15

1. This is to remind them that when they see these things come to pass, they will know that Zechariah was a prophet of God. They will occur just as He said, just as God said through Him.

2. Now regarding the names here in verse 14, we see them a little different than in verse 10 and David Guzik gives us this perspective as to why. He wrote, “Earlier, *Josiah* was said to be the son of Zephaniah, and Zechariah apparently gave this prophecy in his house (Zechariah 6:10). Since the name *Hen* means “gracious,” it is almost certainly another name, and an appropriate name for this Josiah *the son of Zephaniah*.” That is probably the reason.

Let me show you what I mean. In Acts 4:36 we are told, **“And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus.”** You see, his name was Joses but because he was such an encouragement to people they called him Barnabas!

3. Now one last point before we close tonight. And that is the Kingdom Age is not only for the Jews but also for the Gentiles. Look at Isaiah chapter 60, beginning in verse 1 where we read, **“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. . . . Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; and the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the LORD your God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He has glorified you. . . . Therefore your gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night, that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, and their kings in procession.”** Isaiah 60:1-5, 9, 11.

What a day that will be when the Lord rules and reigns from Zion and His glory fills the earth and the knowledge of the Lord is as the sand of the sea! I can't help but echo the words of John in Revelation 22:20, when he said *MARANATHA* or *“Come, Lord Jesus!”* We await His return; it is our blessed hope! And we can trust in God's Word, for what He has said about the past has come to pass, and what He has said about the future will come to pass. His Word is true, it will give us hope, peace, assurance in the days we are living in! As the Lord said, **“And this shall come to pass if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.”**