

Zec 6:9-15; 9 ¶ "And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 10 Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, which are come from Babylon, and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah; 11 Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest; 12 And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. 14 And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD. 15 And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

"Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest;" Joshua is the same word that is used for the name Jesus, which is a prophetic reason, for this Joshua the high priest to be crowned as both king and priest. The crowns are not permanent crowns to be worn by Joshua. They are sign prophecies telling Joshua and Israel, of the coming of the Messiah. Joshua already has the High Priest headgear to wear.

"Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place," is the prophesy that Messiah shall be born of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David, according to God's covenant promise to them.

"and he shall build the temple of the LORD: 13 Even he shall build the temple of the LORD;" This is the prophesy that Jesus Christ, The Branch, will build the New Testament church. We know that this is not speaking of the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. God does not tell Zechariah that *"The BRANCH"* will rebuild the temple. God says, *"he shall build the temple of the Lord."* When the Jerusalem temple was built, and each time it was rebuilt, it was the work of a multitude of people. However, Christ, alone, has established the New Testament Church, and continues to add to it such as should be saved, by his own power and might.

"and he shall bear the glory," This signifies that the glory of the New Testament church will be completely upon Jesus Christ, who established it. No man can claim that he is the builder of the New Testament church. This is why the Primitive Baptist do not trace their roots of faith back to any person, it goes back to the Saviour, who said in: *Mt 16:18 "upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Jesus did what he said he would do, and the glory is his alone.

"and shall sit and rule upon his throne;" This part of the prophesy is now pointing to the eternal position of *"The BRANCH."* Jesus, having established the temple of God, is returned to heaven and is seated upon the throne of God, at the Father's right hand, seen in: *Heb 10:12; 9 "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified."* From this position: Jesus is still ruling, and reigning, upon the earth, to bring all things to pass, which fulfill the eternal will of God the Father.

"and he shall be a priest upon his throne:" What does it mean to be King and Priest upon his throne? As King he rules in the hearts and souls of God's chosen people on earth and in heaven. As Priest, Jesus is the mediator between God the Father, who is offended by the sin of man, and the chosen children of God. You see, by offering himself willing on the cross, he functioned as High Priest and offered his blood once, for all sin that is forgiven. Even now, in heaven seated upon the throne of God, Jesus is fulfilling the office of High Priest. How, you ask? He sits on the throne of God as King, and yet, he is the mediator between offending sinful man and God the Father. The shed blood of Jesus, and the impartation his righteousness to God's people in the new birth, are the things by which we are reconciled to God the Father, in the work of Christ the High Priest, as seen in: *2Co 5:18 "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the*

ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation." Jesus giving himself to die on the cross, is the action of the High Priest office, which reconciled God the Father to us.

"and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." Between whom? Council means *plan*. Thus, we see the plan of salvation by grace, brought to fruition by the finished work of Christ, and accepted by God the Father. This peace is extended to the New Testament church, to both the Jews and the Gentiles, as seen in: **2Co 5:17-21; 17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."** Reconciled means *to change mutually*, wherefore, we are both, Jew and Gentile, alike changed by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the new birth. We, who were once enemies, are now one in Christ Jesus. Through Jesus, the **"counsel of peace"** is established between God the Father and us.

"14 And the crowns shall be to Helem, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the LORD." Remember that we stated these crowns were visible sign gifts. Joshua the High Priest temporarily wore the crowns. They were presented to be prophetic, and to inspire hope and rejoicing in the children of Israel. As high priest, Joshua already had the appropriate headgear to wear in the performance of his duties. These crowns were to be taken to the temple of the Lord, which they are presently rebuilding, and put on display. This was a reminder to the nation of Israel, and these men named, who are captives in Babylon, of the coming Messiah. These men were to carry this message of the coming Messiah back with them to the Israelites in Babylon. Their visits to the temple would remind them of the promise of the coming of the Messiah. They could look upon these emblems of God's promise and be encouraged when their faith was waning.

"And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the LORD, and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you." To prove, to all parties, that Zechariah had been sent by God, the Israelites that were in captivity afar off would come and help in the temple rebuilding. The message of the coming Messiah was an incentive for those afar off to come home. Those who could not come physically, would send money, as the present messengers had brought silver and gold which was used to make the crowns, seen in: **"Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, which are come from Babylon,"**

Prophetically, the New Testament church will be filled with both Jew and Gentiles, seen in: **Eph 2:13; 11 ¶ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 ¶ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."** The Gentiles were a people far off from Israel, until the Messiah came and opened to them the effectual door of salvation by grace.

"and build in the temple of the LORD," As the children from afar off were to come and build **"in"** the temple, so, each time a soul is regenerated and comes forward confessing Christ as Saviour and Lord, they are building **"in"** the temple. We see this verified in: **Eph 2:21 "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the**

Spirit." The whole of the temple, the New Testament Church, is still in progress upon the earth in time. It will not be completed, on the interior, until the last heir of grace is put in their place **"in"** the temple. We will see the manifestation of this completed temple, which is already completed in the finished work of Christ, in the eternal resurrection.

"And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God." We see there is action required of Israel for the temple to be completely rebuilt. Zechariah tells them: God will assist you, in rebuilding the temple, if you are obedient to his will. If you turn away from God, God will forsake you, and the temple will be completely rebuilt. Likewise, we each have our place and duties in the church.

There are a couple of aspects that we wish to expand upon, the Lord willing, one being: **"he shall build the temple of the Lord."** Just as the original temple was built with the cedars of Lebanon, a place afar off, So Jesus is using a people that were afar off, both Jews and Gentiles from the age of salvation by grace, in the building of the New Testament church.

Do you remember, in the building of the original temple of the Lord by Solomon: everything was brought to the exact shape, and size, far away from the temple site, and then was carried to the temple and put in place? seen in: **1Ki 6:7 "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building."** As we consider this picture, we see the prospect of the New Testament church, and its glorious future in the eternal heavens. How? Through the Holy Spirit power, of Christ in you in the new birth, and through the trials and tribulations of life on earth, we are being shaped, sized, and made into an exact fit, for the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us in eternity. This is all done on earth. The finished work will be manifested in the eternal resurrection, of the dead in Christ.

We see, in the two crowns being displayed in the temple, the encouragement of the Christian, as we behold our Saviour wearing the crowns of both offices, while we walk in Christian faith here in time. We understand that it takes both offices to bring us to eternal life in Christ. We look forward to seeing the finished temple in eternity. Praise and glory to our Saviour and Lord, who is **"The BRANCH,"** who is **"The King,"** who is **"The Priest,"** forever. Hallelujah! Amen!