

ZECHARIAH

The Apocalypse of the Old Testament

Chapter 6, Part 2

Zechariah 6

⁹ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:
¹⁰ “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. 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. ¹² Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name *is* the BRANCH!

Zechariah 6

From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; ¹³ Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”

¹⁴ “Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the LORD for Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah.

Zechariah 6

¹⁵ Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the LORD. 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.”

Zechariah 6

- In these instructions and prophetic promise, there is no intervening/answering angel involved. Zechariah is hearing directly from YHVVH.
- This tells us this word and these actions are very important and carry the authority of the Most High God.
- We need to understand that the visions received by Zechariah in one night have a sequence, most likely chronological.

Zechariah 6

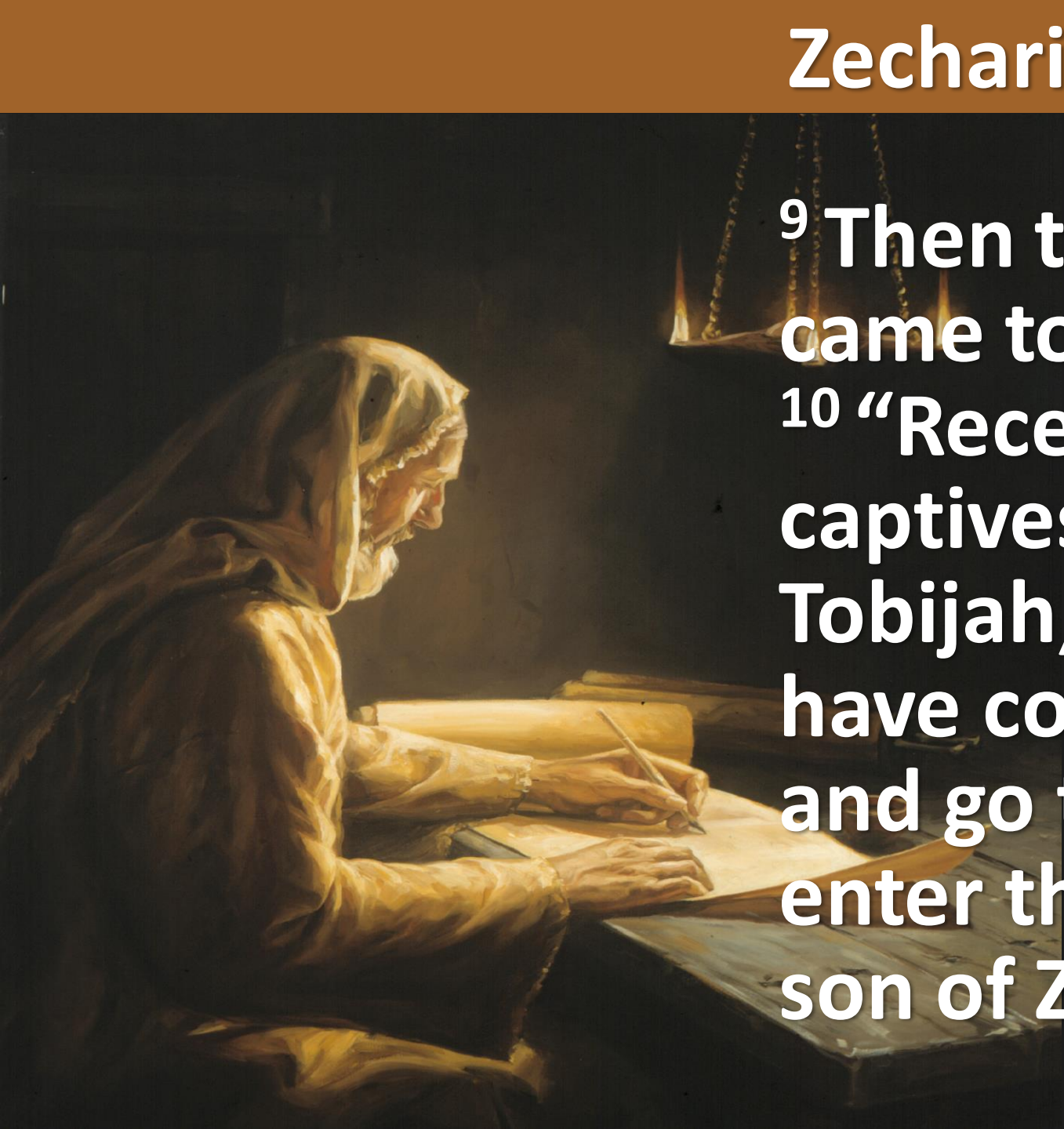
- They begin with the four recon angels announcing that the world was at peace, indicating that **God's judgment on the nations had not yet begun.**
- This moved into a series of visions that captured (*in a nutshell!*) God's plan for Israel through the ages, including the coming of the promised Messiah.
- The final vision in the first part of this chapter now revealed those "recon agents" are now on a mission, the mission all Israel had been waiting for, the judgment of the nations.

Zechariah 6

- If we continue to assume this chronology, this next passage, which is NOT a vision but a command and enactment by Zechariah, is also in chronological order.
- **It is what happens AFTER God judges the nations.**



Zechariah 6

A painting of a man in a yellow robe, likely a prophet, sitting at a desk and writing on a scroll. A lamp hangs above him, casting a warm glow. The background is dark.

⁹ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

¹⁰ “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.

Zechariah 6

- Receive, accept, the donation brought by the returned exiles. This may refer to a **special delegation from Babylon** (*where most of the “captives” chose to stay*) or some among the returning exiles.
- As usual, we can make some deductions based on names.

Heldai = “Lord’s world”; or “worldliness”

Tobijah = “Yah is good”; “God’s Goodness”

Jediaiah = “Yah knows”

Zechariah 6

- Perhaps these together indicate that YHWH has known of His plan (*future is known to Him*) and through His goodness He will make a world that currently is governed by man, and turn it into His own world, where He is King.
- Josiah son of Zephaniah: **Yoshiyah** = founded by Yah (*or Yah supports*); **tsephanyah** = Yah has hidden (*or Yah conceals*).
- Perhaps a reference that YHWH has a plan which He may conceal for a time.

Zechariah 6

- This was most certainly true of those who acted out this strange command.
- It seems a delegation from Babylon (*the captives*) had brought down some gold and silver, most likely a gift to help rebuild the Temple, and were staying with “Josiah son of Zephaniah.”
- Zechariah was to take their gift and use it to fashion something else, something God wanted to use to complete the plan He had just outlined to Zechariah in vision.

Zechariah 6

- There is **an urgency** here as God commands Zechariah and sends him on a mission. Not a vision, a mission. This is a real-life event.
- The visions are over, but now Zechariah has something to do besides watch and wonder at the visions. **He is to do this NOW, this same day.**
- It serves as the fitting climax to this series of visions received all in one night. *Poor Zechariah is probably pretty exhausted at this point, but God enabled Him (and always enables us!) to complete the missions.*

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.

Zechariah 6

- Use of both silver and gold is interesting. In scripture **gold represents deity and kingship**. Silver represents redemption, the blood offering for atonement. It is a symbol of the priesthood (the ones who offered the blood sacrifices to YHVH). *God is providing all sorts of clues as to what He intends to do.*
- With the silver and gold, Zechariah is told to “make an elaborate crown.” That’s how it reads in most translations. However, in the Hebrew, **the word crown is plural. It should be translated crowns.**

Zechariah 6

- Two crowns were to be made (one silver, one gold), and BOTH were to be placed on Joshua's head. (*The word "elaborate" does not appear in the Hebrew.*)
- Some argue that the silver and gold were two elements of one crown. But this then loses the importance of two crowns for two positions placed solely on ONE person.



SILVER = PRIEST



GOLD = KING

Zechariah 6

- Perhaps the silver crown represents the one Yeshua wore at His first coming – the crown of thorns, signifying the shedding of His blood on the cross.
- Silver is the color of redemption and atonement required by God. **Not only was He the perfect and acceptable sacrifice, the Lamb of God, He is also the High Priest who brought the sacrifice!** Perhaps the crown of gold is reserved for His second coming when He will indeed be crowned King and Priest over the entire world.



Zechariah 6

- Again, look at the names:

Joshua = **Yehoshua** = YHVH saves (essentially the same as Yeshua, shortened version) *(coincidence??)*

Jehozadak = **Yehotsadaq** = YHVH is right (righteous)

- Look at these names together. Joshua is the son of Jehozadak. Yeshua (salvation) is the son of YHVH, righteousness!!!
- Zechariah is given instruction to crown Joshua. Crowning generally means making them “king.”

Zechariah 6

- In that day, there were two in Israel who governed: a **priest** (Joshua) and a **civil governor** (Zerubbabel). If anyone were to be crowned here, it would seem the likely one would be Zerubbabel.
- Remember the Aaronic priesthood was hereditary, ONLY of those who were descendants of Levi, and only from the family of Aaron (Moses' brother).
- Likewise, when Israel began the monarchy, the kings came ONLY from the tribe of Judah, and the family of David.

Zechariah 6

- Something seems wrong here, at least to any Israelite listening to or reading these instructions. Priests were never kings, and kings were never priests.
- In fact, **King Uzziah learned that lesson the hard way** when he became so puffed up with pride that he thought he could be a priest as well as king. What happened to Uzziah was a stern warning that God holds these two offices separate for a reason, until they come together in the One divinely appointed to hold both offices. (2 Chronicles 26:16-21)

Zechariah 6

- **COMMENTARY:** *Uzziah was a godly man, who was said to have observed all the laws and commandments of the Torah (II Chronicles 27:2). He paid strict attention to the prophets of his time, among them, Isaiah, Amos, Hosea, and others. But at the height of his successful rule, he committed one major sin, which cost him his name, health and throne. In a moment of self-glorification and pride, Uzziah decided to combine in his own person the political and religious offices of the nation Israel's southern kingdom Judah. He wanted to be High Priest as well as king. This was strictly forbidden. (Whitehead)*

Zechariah 6

- The only other person in scripture referenced as both priest and king was the mysterious **Melchizedek** whom Abraham met in Genesis 14. *“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.”* (Genesis 14:18) “Malki-Tzedek king of Shalem brought out bread and wine. He was cohen of El ‘Elyon [God Most High]” (CJB)
- We won’t spend time here delving into the mysterious identity of Melchizedek (*Malki-Tzedek = my King is righteousness*).

Zechariah 6

- This early priest was also a king, and serves as **the only TYPE** for **someone to hold both offices in scripture** (see Hebrews 7).
- This was before the giving of Torah, and before the restrictions that a priest must be a Levite from the family of Aaron, and kings must be Judahites from family of David.



Zechariah 6

- Zerubbabel was indeed from the family of David, and in the line of the Messiah. Why was he not crowned king?
- The answer: **History or HIS story**. According to God's plan, at the time of this writing Persia governed the "world." There was no king allowed anywhere except Persia! Israel was not self governing at that time, and at that moment in history Elohim would not restore the throne of David.

Zechariah 6

- But why on earth was a priest from the tribe of Levi crowned king?? First, God would not restore the throne of David at this time to Israel, so Zerubbabel would not be officially crowned king.
- There WAS no king at this time. And at that time, a priest could not serve as king, so Joshua was merely a **“stand in”** for the eventual crowning of One who would wear BOTH crowns – the Messiah.
- Even the Jews understood this passage to be pointing to the eventual coming and crowning of Messiah.

Zechariah 6

- And for Joshua, this is *not a legal act of crowning him king*. This crown was never worn, except for this “dress rehearsal” of the real thing.
- It is to **remind** God’s people of who He has in mind for king when He does restore the throne of David to Israel.
- This entire act was a **type, a foreshadowing of something yet to come....**even for us! From our perspective in history we know that only ONE will wear David’s crown again and sit as King of the entire world!

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, And He shall build the temple
of the Lord;**

Zechariah 6

- Once again we see the YHVH Tsavaot (*52 times in this little book!*). This is always used as an *underscore for all readers and for Zechariah to understand WHO is talking.* The **Sovereign of the Universe, the Most High God.** His authority (*there is NONE higher!*) is behind this message.



Zechariah 6

- The Targum, the Aramaic translation and paraphrase, renders the passage: *“Behold the Man, Messiah is his name, who is to be revealed.”*
- Although that is not what was said in the original Hebrew (*the word BRANCH is used*) the rabbis already knew this referred to the Messiah.

Zechariah 6



- ***“Behold the man”*** – This should sound familiar. It is precisely what Pilate said when “displaying” Yeshua to the crowds. *“Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, “Behold the Man!” (John 19:5)*

Zechariah 6

COMMENTARY: *Behold as a word identifying Jesus is also frequently employed in Scripture. “Behold the Man!” “Behold My Servant!” (Isaiah 42:1; 52:13), “Behold thy King!” (Zechariah 9:9), “Behold your God!” (Isaiah 40:9). So this word behold used by God in calling attention to the different aspects of the character of the same blessed Person, Himself as He appeared in human form to suffer for us! Now in the Zechariah passage (6:12) he is symbolically being crowned as the Messianic King taking His office in the Millennial Kingdom. (Whitehead)*

Zechariah 6

- ***The Branch*** – In scripture the branch is found several places, always indicating Messiah:
 - ✓ As a tender plant: “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
 - ✓ And as a root out of dry ground: (Isaiah 53:2a) At the time of Jesus the kingly line of David was apparently very obscure, having sunk into poverty, so this is indeed true that He would come out of “dry ground.”

Zechariah 6

- ***The Branch*** As a tender plant: “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
 - ✓ Branch from Jesse (*David’s father*): *“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”* (Isaiah 11:1)
 - ✓ Branch of David: *“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”* (Jeremiah 23:5)

Zechariah 6

- ***The Branch...***

- ✓ My Servant: *“For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.”* (Zechariah 3:9b)
- ✓ A Man whose Name is the Branch: this verse
- ✓ Branch of Righteousness: *“In those days and at that time, I will cause a Branch of Righteousness to spring up for David, and He will execute justice and righteousness in the land.”* (Jeremiah 33:15)

Zechariah 6

- ***The Branch...***

- ✓ The Branch of YHVH: *“In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing For those of Israel who have escaped.”* (Isaiah 4:2)
- ✓ A grain of wheat, dying: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”* (John 12:24)

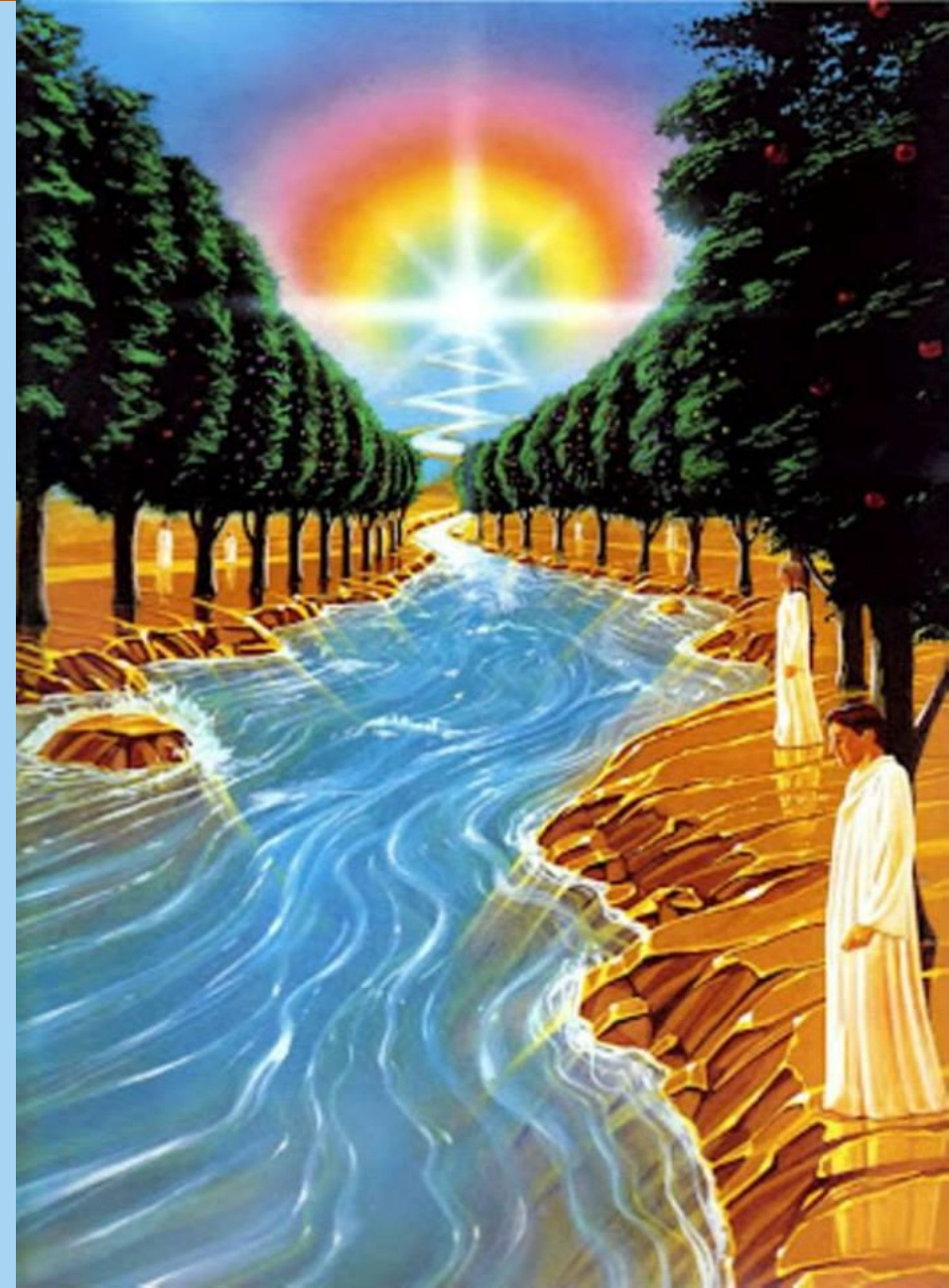
Zechariah 6



- ***“He will branch out...He will build the Temple of YHVH...”*** These passages are obviously referring to the second coming of the Messiah, even before He came the first time!
- He did NOT branch out, nor did He build the Temple the first time. He came to provide the only acceptable sacrifice, and die in our place. He came to pay the price for sin.

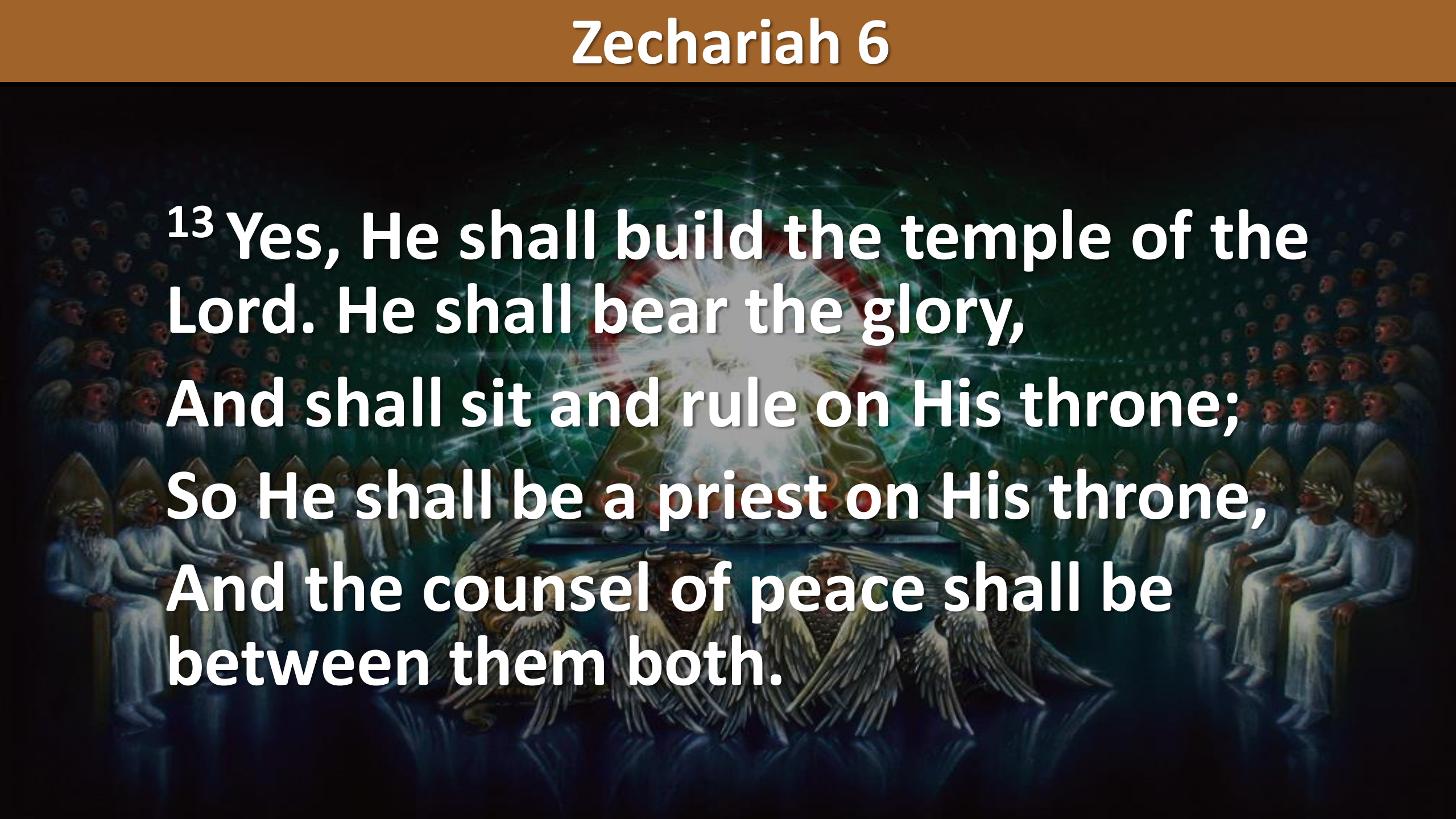
Zechariah 6

- The NEXT time He comes He will indeed “branch out” and build the Temple.
- Today a Temple is already being built – in the hearts of all believers. Soon another physical/spiritual Temple (Ezekiel 40-48) will be built during the Millennial Kingdom.
(The description of this Temple in Ezekiel defies a strictly physical structure.)



Zechariah 6

13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.



Zechariah 6

- It is likely that the Millennial Temple is what is referred to here, which most think is what is described in **Ezekiel chapters 40-48**. There apparently will indeed be a physical Temple during the 1000 year reign of Yeshua from Jerusalem.
- When He does come to do this, **He will come in His glory and splendor**. We will not see the wounded and striped Jesus. We will bow down to the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Zechariah 6

- And now we are given the information that this man whose name is the Branch will sit on a throne (as does a King), and will also be a priest on a throne (unheard of in Israel's history).
- ***“The counsel of peace shall be between them both”*** means that both offices will be “at peace” (*according to God's will and plan*) and will be held by one Man – the Man whose name is the Branch.

Zechariah 6

- There is no conflict here. Both offices were only pointers, meant to be filled by the perfect Man, the perfect King, the perfect High Priest, who is also the perfect sacrifice! One and the same.
- What is being enacted here is the **coronation of the Messiah as King and Priest on His throne in Jerusalem.**



Zechariah 6



It is what Isaiah (2:2-4) spoke of: *“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.”*

Zechariah 6

- It is interesting to note that two “aleph tavs” appear in these two verses in Zechariah:

Zec 6:12 And speak^{H559} unto^{H413} him, saying,^{H559} Thus^{H3541} speaketh^{H559} the LORD^{H3068} of hosts,^{H6635} saying,^{H559} Behold^{H2009} the man^{H376} whose name^{H8034} is The BRANCH;^{H6780} and he shall grow up^{H6779} out of his place,^{H4480 H8478} and he shall build^{H1129} (H853) the temple^{H1964} of the LORD:^{H3068}

Zec 6:13 Even he^{H1931} shall build^{H1129} (H853) the temple^{H1964} of the LORD;^{H3068} and he^{H1931} shall bear^{H5375} the glory,^{H1935} and shall sit^{H3427} and rule^{H4910} upon^{H5921} his throne;^{H3678} and he shall be^{H1961} a priest^{H3548} upon^{H5921} his throne:^{H3678} and the counsel^{H6098} of peace^{H7965} shall be^{H1961} between^{H996} them both.^{H8147}

Zechariah 6

- Note, if you use the E-sword version KJV with Strong's concordance numbers they assign the "ET" or **Aleph/Tav** a number as if it was a word. You can see where this appears in verses. Strong's # H853. Strong's definitions:

אֶת

'êth

ayth

Apparently contracted from **H226** in the demonstrative sense of *entity*; properly *self* (but generally used to point out more definitely the object of a verb or preposition, *even* or *namely*): - (As such unrepresented in English.)

Total KJV occurrences: 7302

Zechariah 6

- When you look up H226 it says:

נִיח

'ôth

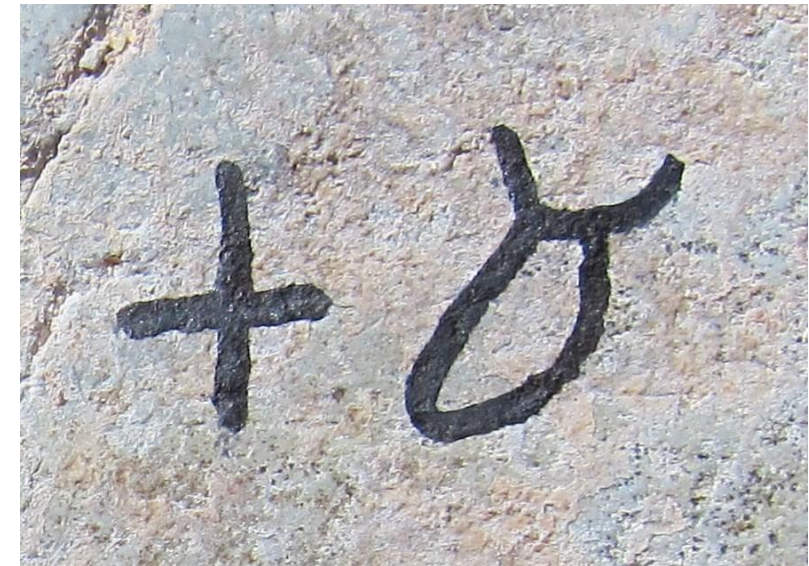
oth

Probably from H225 (in the sense of *appearing*); a *signal* (literally or figuratively), as a *flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, evidence, mark, miracle, (en-) sign, token*.

- Everyone (rabbis included) assumed this was not really a word, but a “signal” to point to something else, so they assigned it the place of a grammatical tool. They, including Strong, didn’t quite get it. They thought it grammatically pointed to *something*. **But it dramatically points to SOMEONE.**

Zechariah 6

- Jesus provided the key to the entire scriptures when He said: *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* (Revelation 1:8)
- We hear about the **Alpha and the Omega**. But this is Greek. In Hebrew, He is the Aleph and the Tav (*first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet*).

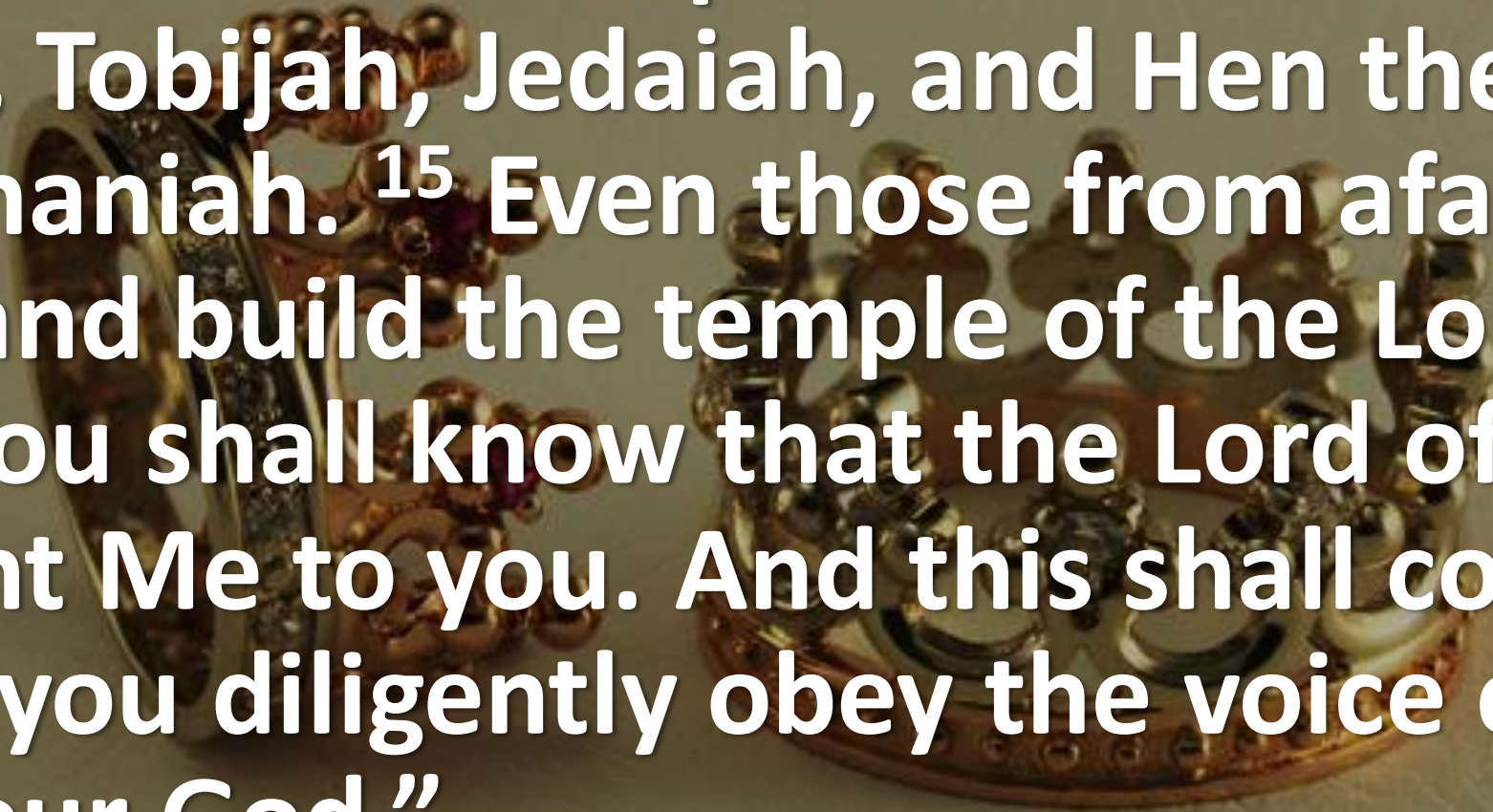


Zechariah 6

- In many passages where the Aleph Tav appears it is easy to see why. But in many others, without the benefit of understanding the Hebrew language and its unique construction, it is not so clear.
- Why it is used here is not immediately known, except that it seems to bracket mention of the **Branch rebuilding the Temple.**
- **That is the Messiah's work!**

Zechariah 6

14 “Now the elaborate crown shall be for a memorial in the temple of the Lord for Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the Lord. 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.”



Zechariah 6

- Again, remember these are CROWNS, **plural**, not singular.
- Crowns were to serve as a reminder of God's promises for Israel, including the coming Messiah who would serve both as High Priest and King.
- The word for “memorial” in Hebrew is *zikron*, which is used in scripture to remember something important. These crowns were to enable the people to *see* them, and thus remember something VERY important – the promised King.

Zechariah 6

- According to something called the Middot (*a rabbinical authority about the Temple*), these crowns were hung in the completed Temple in the high windows.
- No record of them later in scripture, or other secular sources. If they were still there during the time Yeshua walked the earth, chances are they melted and were destroyed when Rome burned down and completely destroyed the Temple.



Zechariah 6

- The names listed here are different than those earlier in this passage, but they are the same people.
- “Helem” is a *nickname* for Heldai, meaning “to dream” (*and also to “bind firmly”*) and “Hen” is a name for Josiah (*previously identified as the son of Zedekiah*), meaning “grace, graciousness.”
- Together, perhaps these new names indicate this **seeming dream for Israel will actually be bound through the Word of God and accomplished by His graciousness toward Israel.**

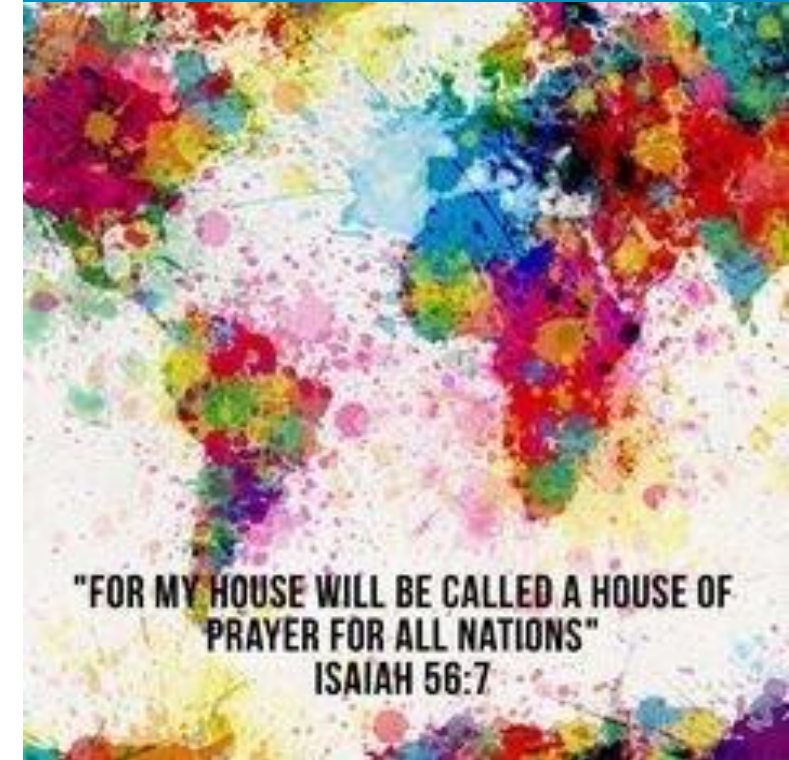
Zechariah 6

“Even those from afar shall come and build the temple of the LORD.”...

COMMENTARY: *The deputation from far away Babylon bringing an offering of silver and gold for the temple, which was then in the process of construction, was the occasion for Zechariah’s prediction of a future glorious temple to be established in Jerusalem as a House of Prayer for all nations, and to which even the Gentile peoples from afar shall flow, bringing their worship and their gifts. (Unger)*

Zechariah 6

- These prophecies speak of the Millennial Kingdom. Isaiah 2:2 hints at all nations coming to the Temple, not only to physically build it, but also to spiritually build it. *“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.”*



Zechariah 6

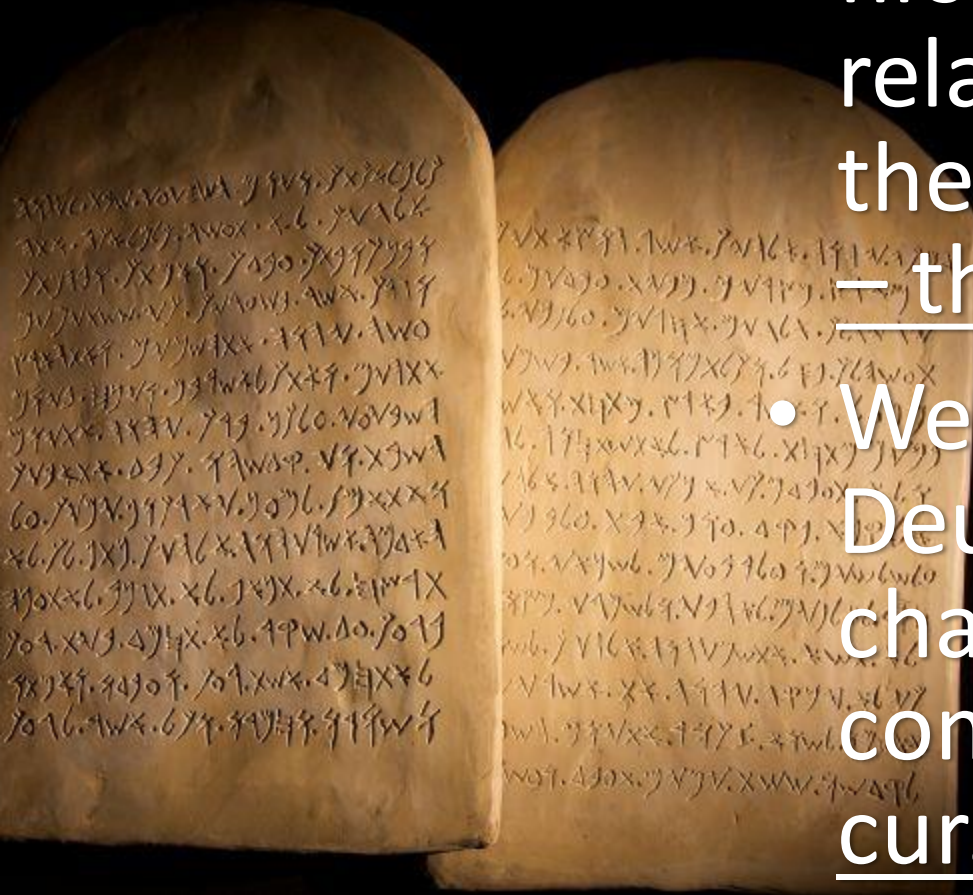
- Verses 12 and 13 of this chapter say that Yeshua (*the Branch*) shall build the temple of the Lord. In this verse the original says *“they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the Lord.”* The nations will build IN the Temple when they bring their wealth into it. (See Isaiah 60 and 61)
- **Yeshua Himself will *build* the Temple.** The nations will build IN it, implying the building up of the Temple with the wealth of the nations.

Zechariah 6

- ***“Has sent Me to you...”*** The capitalization of the word ***Me*** indicates that those who translated the King James bible believe this speaker to be Yeshua Himself. This is correct.
- *Initially* we are told the speaker is none other than YHVH Himself. Now we hear the Messiah speaking as the one *“sent by YHVH Tsavaot.”* **Another of those marvelous mysteries about the Godhead!** Jesus is the Son, the one sent by the Father, but He is also the Almighty! *We can't quite get a grip on this, but we can believe it God said it.*

Zechariah 6

- ***“If you diligently obey...”*** When God first entered into a covenant relationship with Israel He emphasized the conditions of this covenant (Mosaic) — their obedience.
- We find these same words in Deuteronomy 28, the well known chapter where Moses restates those conditions, and promises blessings or cursings based on their obedience or disobedience:



Zechariah 6

““Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deuteronomy 28:1-2)

Zechariah 6

- Now, as He restates His commitment to bless Israel again, that same warning is given. But **God fully intends to keep His promises to them**.
- This time it will not merely be the nation of Israel granted these blessings, but **individuals who are obedient to the voice of God**, whether they be Hebrew or Gentile. These will be the “one new man,” or completed Israel.



Zechariah 6

- We read of this in Revelation 5: *“Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and (correctly translated as “a kingdom of”) priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”*
(Revelation 5:9-10)

Zechariah 6

- With this symbolic act that foreshadows the ultimate crowning of Yeshua HaMashiach as both Priest and King over the entire earth, the **first part of the book of Zechariah comes to an end.**
- In these visions we are provided a timeline that takes both Israel and the entire world from the current time when these visions were given, to a time when the Messiah will reign over the earth, with all those who believe, whether Jew or Gentile.

Zechariah 6

COMMENTARY: *Because the visions of Zechariah are highly symbolic, we are apt to come to the conclusion that they are just haphazard dream-stuff of a prophet of long ago. Folk who consider them totally unrelated to each other feel free to interpret them in any way they choose. There is a danger of lifting out one of the visions from its context and giving it an absurd interpretation. We must remember that one of the great rules of interpreting prophecy is that no prophecy is of any private interpretation—that is, it must be fitted into its proper place in the whole body of prophecy.*



Zechariah 6

We need to keep in mind that all of the visions given to Zechariah are connected and related. They have meaning which is local and also they give an outline of history. They picture the whole future of the nation Israel, including the destruction of her enemies and her cleansing and restoration to her high priestly witness. The section finalizes with the coming of Yeshua to the earth as the great Priest-King to reign on the earth. (McGee)

Zechariah 6

- J Vernon McGee said

“History is flowing in the channel of prophecy.”

This is a profound and true statement.

- Elohim has a **Plan of Redemption** that has been in place since the foundations of the world, and nothing or no one will derail it. All history (HIS-story!) is in His hands.

Zechariah 6

- When you feel this world is spinning out of control, *rebuke that thought*. **The Sovereign God of the Universe, YHVH Tsavaot, has been, is, and always be on the Throne and in complete control.**
- These visions in Zechariah, completed by this “crowning” piece, will be perfectly fulfilled in His pre-ordained precise timeline.

