

# Final Vision, Crowning Joshua

Zechariah 6

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## **Zech 6:1-8 – Vision of the Four Chariots**

*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. <sup>6</sup> The one with the black horses is going to the north country, the white are going after them, and the dappled are going toward the south country.” <sup>7</sup> 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.” <sup>8</sup> So they walked to and fro throughout the earth. <sup>8</sup> And He called to me, and spoke to me, saying, “See, those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country.”*

## **v1-3 – What did Zechariah see?**

*Four chariots were coming from between two mountains:* Since the original text says the two mountains, most assume they are the Mount of Olives and Mount Zion.

- Between Mount Zion and the Mount of Olives is the Valley of Jehoshaphat which is related to the judgment of the nations.
- Chariots were a symbol of power and authority (Isaiah 66:15, Habakkuk 3:8, Haggai 2:22)
- Mountains of bronze associates these mountains with strength and judgment... Num 21:9 serpent on pole, Rev 1:15 Jesus' feet

## **What do the color of the horses represent?**

*Four chariots ... red horses ... black horses ... white horses ... dappled horses; strong steeds:* The horsemen of Zechariah 1 were observers on reconnaissance. These four chariots and their horses seem to be hostile agents of God's judgment, emissaries of His war against the godless world.

- The colors essentially are the same as the four horsemen in Revelation 6, the emissaries of God's judgment.

- In the usual Scriptural symbolism red speaks of war, black of famine and death, white of victory, and grizzled of pestilence (Ezekiel 14:21, Rev 6:8).

## **v4-8 – What do the four spirits of heaven represent?**

This means that these four chariots are actually four angelic beings sent from God. This means that these may not be exactly the same as the four horsemen of Revelation 6, but that the idea of their mission and purpose is similar.

- These angels are seen as horsemen on chariots because *these ride swiftly through the whole world to execute what God commands them.*
- The 4 spirits represent divine power (Daniel 7:2, Jeremiah 49:36, Revelation 7:1)

## **To where did the chariots go?**

*To the north country:* Two of the horses are focused on the north, where Babylon and Magog are.

- The dappled horse goes South toward Egypt.
- However, each of the four go beyond Babylon and Egypt extending *to and fro throughout the earth.*

## **What foreshadowing of the four horses of the Apocalypse do we see today?**

Birth pangs...

- White horse – The Conqueror (Antichrist) – The growing influence of the deep state globalists, WEF, UN, Corporations and other globalist organizations
- Red horse – War – Ukraine and the growing threat in diverse places... a great way to cull the population for the global warming faithful
- Black horse – Scarcity – Supply chain disruptions due to pandemic, the response to the pandemic and war. Monetary policies causing hyperinflation so that a day's wages are required for a day's food.
- Pale (Greek “chloros”, actually Green) horse – Death – By sword (war), hunger (weaponized famine), death by the beasts of the earth (pestilence, pandemic) causing a quarter of the world's population to die.

### **What does it tell us that these servants of God were eager to go where God sent them?**

God gives us the desire and talent to do what He is calling us to do...

Psalm 37:4 – *Delight yourself also in the Lord,  
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

### **What was it that will give rest to the Spirit of God?**

*Those who go toward the north country have given rest to My Spirit in the north country:* God's Spirit is only at rest when His enemies and the enemies of His people are judged.

### **Why is the judgment on the North Country emphasized being mentioned twice in verses 6 and 8?**

This is similar to Isaiah's oracles against the nations (Chapters 13 – 23).

- This is encouraging to the returning remnant
- Babylon has already experienced God's judgment having been conquered by Persia
- Shinar is a technical term always representing a geographical location the 6 times it is used
- This is where wicked anti-God human religion began and where it will come to an end.

### **Why does history often repeat itself?**

- People don't learn the lessons of history... they think they are smarter (more evolved) than those who have gone before.
- God is in control and allows history to be cyclical so that the spiritually discerning will recognize His permissive will.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 – *That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.*

### **Where have we seen God working in patterns that reveal He is in control?**

Tragedies for Israel have happened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av (~August)...

- Babylon razed Solomon's temple in 586BC
- The Roman Empire destroyed the Zerubbabel-Herod temple in AD 70
- Rome crushed the Bar Kokhbeh uprising killing over 100,000 Jews and destroying Bethar AD 135
- The Crusades began in 1096
- A decree expelling the Jews from England was published in 1290
- The deadline for the Jews being expelled from Spain in 1492

### **Zech 6:9-15 – The Command to Crown Joshua**

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. <sup>12</sup> 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;  
<sup>13</sup> 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."*

<sup>14</sup> "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. <sup>15</sup> 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."

### **v9-11 – What was Zechariah to receive?**

*Receive the gift from the captives ... who have come from Babylon:* As the refugees continued to return from exile they brought with them gifts from wealthy Babylon.

- The meaning of the names: Heldai means robust, Tobijah means God's goodness, and Jedaiah means God knows. God knows that through His goodness, He will put His king on the throne, and He will do it in a robust manner.

This gift for the crown represented other gifts from the former exiles for the temple:

Ezra 1:4 – *let the men of his place help him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, besides the freewill offerings for the house of God which is in Jerusalem*

### **What was Zechariah to do with the gifts?**

*Make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua:* It was absolutely unusual to crown a high priest, because priests were never crowned as kings and kings were never priests.

- This typifies the coming reign of Christ on earth during the Millennial Kingdom

Other translations of "an elaborate crown" is plural, "crowns" ...

Revelation 19:12 – *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.*

### **How do we know it was forbidden to mix the offices of priest and king in Israel?**

According to the Mosaic Law, only the direct male line of Aaron could serve as priests in the Tabernacle and Temple (Exodus 28:1, Numbers 3). The kings of Israel and Judah all came from the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, etc, so they were disqualified from being priests from birth.

### **Who tested the separate offices of priest and king?**

- 1 Samuel 13 tells of King Saul offering a sacrifice and losing his kingdom (and the presence of the Holy Spirit) as a result.
- 2 Chronicles 26 tells of King Uzziah being lifted up with pride from his victories acted as a priest and was stricken with leprosy to the end of his life.

### **Why wasn't the godly civil leader Zerubbabel crowned?**

Joshua was crowned because the next descendant of David to rule would be Jesus, prefigured by the high priest Joshua. The crowning of Joshua prophesies the King-Priest Jesus.

- Jesus is serving as Priest now and will serve as Priest-King during the Millennial Kingdom.

### **v12-13 – Who is the Branch?**

This is another clue that the crowing of Joshua typifies the coming Messiah. We already saw this Branch in Zechariah 3:8, and it is a familiar title for the Messiah (Isaiah 4:2 and 11:1, Jeremiah 23:5 and 33:15).

Jeremiah 33:15 – *In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.*

The Branch is associated with life and fruitfulness. Jesus used the same image when He said that He was the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5).

### **What is the significance in the high priest being named Joshua?**

- The name Jesus is a transliterated form of the name Joshua both meaning the Lord saves.
- This is what God is doing after all the 8 visions are realized... they point to the Big Picture: The Millennial reign of Christ.

### **What is meant by, from His place He shall branch out?**

This speaks of the Messiah's humble beginning...

Isaiah 53:2 – *For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.*

Referring to Jesus as the Branch also represents His fruitfulness; He will come where there is little promise of new life, unexpectedly, like the root out of a dry ground.

### **What will the Branch do?**

*He shall build the temple of the LORD:* The Branch will rebuild the temple - not the same temple Zerubbabel worked on, but another...

1. the temple of His people during the Church Age (Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:5)
2. Temple #4: The Millennial Kingdom temple (Ezekiel 40-48)

### **What is the significance that the Messiah will build the temple being mentioned twice?**

This future temple being build by the Messiah should be encouraging to the former exiles because they were honored to do the Lord's work by building the temple for their time.

- God was going to do something really big from their efforts to build the temple.

### **v13 – What is the significance of the Branch sitting on His throne?**

*He shall be a priest on His throne:* This was an unthinkable concept previously in Israel because priests did not sit on thrones and kings did not serve as priests.

- The Branch is different; He rules as both a King and Priest.
- Currently Jesus is on His Father's throne in heaven, During the Millennial Kingdom He will be on the Davidic throne in Jerusalem...

2 Samuel 7:16 – *your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever*

### **How is it, the counsel of peace shall be between both offices (the better translation of them both)?**

Both the offices of priest and king are merged in Christ as you'd expect from the Prince of Peace...

Isaiah 9:7 – *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.*

The work of Christ makes it possible to (1) have peace with God, (2) peace in your heart (freedom from anxiety – fruit of the Spirit) and (3) peace between the nations.

#### **v14 – How was the crowning of Joshua a memorial?**

The LORD makes it clear that the crown for Joshua was a picture of the ruling Priest-King in the future. God never intended for Joshua to take control as king in the Jerusalem of his day.

- It was to be displayed in the temple as a reminder to the generous returnees offering gifts.
- Haggai makes it clear that not everyone was generous.

#### **What other occasions did God establish memorials?**

- The rainbow, feasts, Gilgal 12-stone memorial (Joshua 12:24), the Lord's Supper, etc.
- Sacrifices in the Millennial Kingdom temple in a world where death is rare. (Ezekiel 43:18-27)

#### **Why does God emphasize remembrance so much?**

Humans are fickle and prone to forget. It is important to remember what God has done for us.

#### **Why was Josiah the son of Zephaniah replaced with Hen the son of Zephaniah in this list?**

The name Hen means "gracious," it is almost certainly another name, and an appropriate name for this Josiah the son of Zephaniah.

#### **v15 – How is it, "those from afar shall come and build the temple of the LORD"?**

This is a reference to the Millennial Kingdom temple which would not happen for a long time in the future...

Isaiah 60:4-6 – *They all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side ...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. The multitude of camels shall cover your land ...they shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.*

The gifts mentioned here may have influenced what the Magi brought to Jesus.

#### **Why did God reveal the blessings of the future temple at this point?**

God's promised blessing in the future means that He wants the work to continue right now, and that He will bless the current work.

#### **What is the principle in God revealing the future in order to impact current behavior?**

Knowledge of where we are headed has a bearing on what we should spend our time and resources on in the here and now...

2 Peter 3:10-12 – *the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with*

*fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God*

Looking at how current events fit into what will soon come to pass gives us a sense of urgency to get on with whatever God is calling us to do. We should be laying up treasure in heaven, not on earth.

- And expecting the imminent rapture of the church is a powerful influence to holiness because we don't want to be caught up while doing something that would embarrass us before the Lord.

#### **What applications do we see from our discussion today?**

- God gives us the desire and talent to do what He is calling us to do.
- History does repeat itself so we should learn the lessons of history and not think that we are any better than those who've gone before us.
- God is into memorials; we are a blessing to Him when we remember what He has done for us.
- Studying Bible prophecy motivates us to holiness and getting on with what God is calling us to do.