

Title: **BEHOLD THE MAN**
Text: Zechariah 6:9-15
Subject: *Christ the Man, the Branch, the King, the Priest*
Date: Sunday Morning — March 12, 2006
Tape # Zechariah #28
Reading: *Zechariah 6:1-15*

1. And I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came four chariots out from between two mountains; and the mountains *were* mountains of brass.
2. In the first chariot *were* red horses; and in the second chariot black horses;
3. And in the third chariot white horses; and in the fourth chariot grisled and bay horses.
4. Then I answered and said unto the angel that talked with me, *What are these, my lord?*
5. And the angel answered and said unto me, *These are the four spirits of the heavens, which go forth from standing before the Lord of all the earth.*
6. The black horses which *are* therein go forth into the north country; and the white go forth after them; and the grisled go forth toward the south country.
7. And the bay went forth, and sought to go that they might walk to and fro through the earth: and he said, *Get you hence, walk to and fro through the earth. So they walked to and fro through the earth.*
8. Then cried he upon me, and spake unto me, saying, *Behold, these that go toward the north country have quieted my spirit in the north country.*
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.

INTRODUCTION

Once our Lord Jesus had been delivered into the hands of wicked men, according to the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, just before he was dragged off to Calvary where he would be crucified, Pilate brought he Son of God out to display him before the blood-thirsty religious mob, crowned with thorns and a purple rag over his shoulders, and said, "*Behold the man.*" I am certain that neither Pilate, nor those who were gathered in the judgment hall, understood the significance of those words.

The Lord Jesus Christ is pre-eminently "the man." He is the man who is God, in whose image and after whose likeness the first man Adam was created. He is the man who is God, the Creator of all things. And he is the man for whom all things were created (Rev. 4:10-11).

(Revelation 4:10-11) "The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Proposition: Long before Pilate held him forth as an object of ridicule and scorn, the Lord God set him forth before his servants as the man to be worshipped and trusted as God our Savior.

It is this Man that I set before you today. I want you to know, trust, worship, and adore this Man, who is God our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

EZEKIEL'S VISION

In Ezekiel 9 the prophet of God saw the Lord Jesus standing beside the brazen altar as the executioner of divine justice upon the wicked. Beginning at the sanctuary of God, he shall pour out God's furious wrath upon all his enemies. His eye will spare none. He declares, "*as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head*" (Ezek. 9:10). Then said to his prophet...

(Ezekiel 9:11) "And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which *had* the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me."

This man, with the inkhorn by his side, wrote the names of the chosen in the book of God and put the mark of God upon their foreheads, preserving them from judgment (Ezek. 9:3-4). In the last day, when he has made all things new, when all his people are gathered in and he delivers the kingdom up to the Father, presenting his ransomed holy, unblameable, and unproveable before the presence of his glory, he will say with joy, "*Lo, I and the children thou hast given me*" (Isa 8:18). Then, the Man Christ Jesus, Jehovah's righteous Servant, who undertook our cause before the worlds were made, shall say, "*I have done as thou hast commanded me.*"

- Ephesians 1:12
- John 10:16-18

ZECHARIAH'S VISION

That is exactly what Zechariah saw in the last of his visions (Zech. 6:9-15). He was commanded to go to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah, where he was to meet three men who had come that very day from the captivity (**Heldai**, whose name means "worldly or led through the world" — **Tobijah**, whose name means "Jehovah's goodness" — and **Jedaiah**, whose name means "Jehovah knows"), with gifts of silver and gold. It seems obvious to me that these three men represent God's elect, who come to Christ with sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise, being delivered by him from their captivity.

- My name is Heldai. The Lord my God has led me through this world all the days of my life.

- My name is Tobijah. I am the object and beneficiary of Jehovah's great goodness.
- And my name is Jedaiah. I am a man known of God from everlasting.
- Being delivered from bitter bondage and captivity, I gladly bring my sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to my God and Savior.

TWO CROWNS

(Zechariah 6:11) "Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set *them* upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest."

Zechariah was commanded to make two crowns, one of silver and one of gold.

- The crown of silver, like the sockets, fillets (fasteners), and hooks of silver in the tabernacle (Ex. 26:19-32; 27:10-17), the shekel of the sanctuary (Lev. 27:3), and the silver chargers before the altar (Num. 7:84), is representative of our Savior's priestly office.
- The crown of gold had reference the kingly office of our Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 14:14).

JOSHUA CROWNED

Joshua, the high priest, being set before the prophet as an eminent type of Christ, was to be crowned with these two crowns. As you know, the name Joshua is the Old Testament word for Jesus (Acts 7:45). There were two men in the Old Testament to whom the name was given.

- That Joshua who was Moses' successor, who took Israel into the land of Canaan, the chief captain of Israel, typified the Lord Jesus as "*the captain of our salvation.*"
- This Joshua, the high priest, was typical of Christ "*the Apostle and High Priest of our profession.*"
- Both of these men, being typical of the Lord Jesus, were saviors in Israel.

Here we see Joshua, the high priest, crowned with crowns of silver and gold by the divine appointment, that he might typify our Lord Jesus Christ, who is a "*priest after the order of Melchizedek,*" who was both "*king of Salem and priest of the most high God.*"

THE MAN

As Zechariah sees Joshua crowned with these crowns, as if to identify the typical meaning even more pointedly, the Lord commanded him to declare, "*Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH.*" Then he describes this man's glory and work in words that can never apply to any man fully, except Christ, the God-man, our Savior. I do not doubt for a moment that when Zechariah saw Joshua, he knew he was looking on a magnificent type of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Zechariah 6:12) "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."

First, his called, "*the Man.*" — This is such an unmistakable reference our Savior that, as John Gill shows, both the Jewish Talmud (the rabbinical commentaries) the Targum (the Aramaic paraphrase) reads, "*Behold the man. Messiah is his name.*"

Oh, how delightful it is to see that man who is God our Savior! — "*Great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh!*" Yes, the man Christ Jesus is truly, and properly man and just as truly and properly God. Where he not both God and man in one glorious person, he could never be our Savior. He could never have brought in everlasting righteousness by his obedience. He could never have redeemed

us with his blood. It has been well said, "God could not suffer, and man could not satisfy; but the God-man has both suffered and satisfied."

THE BRANCH

Next, our Lord Jesus is called "*The Branch*." This is a well known title of our Redeemer, and is applicable to none but him. In Isaiah 11, our Savior is spoken of as "*a Branch*." In that chapter, Isaiah was inspired to use the word "run" (netser), commonly translated "**Nazarite**," to identify the Branch coming to save us by the sacrifice of himself (Isa. 11:1, 10).

(Isaiah 11:1) "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch (*netzar* — *Nazarite*) shall grow out of his roots."

(Isaiah 11:10) "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious."

Christ, and Christ alone, was the Netser, *the Nazarite* devoted to God from the womb. Indeed, even before he was conceived in the virgin's womb, from the womb of eternity, his name was called "*Jesus*," Savior (Isa. 49:1-2; Matt. 1:21; Luke 2:21).

(Isaiah 49:1-2) "Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. (2) And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;"

(Matthew 1:21) "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

(Luke 2:21) "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

But the word translated "*The BRANCH*" in Zechariah is a different word. This word is "xmu" (tsemach). It means, "The SPROUT." It is the same word used in Jeremiah 23:5-6.

(Jeremiah 23:5-6) "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. (6) In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called (worshipped), THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

When we read that "*the man*" is "*the man whose name is The BRANCH*," we are assured that this is no mere man. This man is both David's son and David's Lord. He is himself Jehovah. And he is Jehovah-tsidkenu, "*THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS!*"

HIS PLACE

Third, we read, "*and he shall grow up out of his place*." — Perhaps this refers to Bethlehem, the house of bread, a little village in the land of Judea, of the tribe of Judah. Our Lord Jesus, who is the Bread of life, was born there (Mic. 5:2).

(Micah 5:2) "But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting."

Those words, "*he shall grow up out of his place*," may have reference to the miraculous nature of the birth of him "*whose goings forth have been from of old from everlasting*." — "*The man whose name is The*

Branch” did not grow up as other men, by the sowing and planting of man, but without the aide of a man. He was born of a virgin, through the power of the Highest, and by his own power, as God.

- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 9:6-7

HIS WORK

Fourth, Zechariah was commanded to speak of the office, work, and character of Christ as the Builder of his church. — “*He shall build the temple of the LORD.*” Then, those same words are repeated in the very next verse (v. 13), as if to emphasize the vast importance of the work, and the dignity of the One who performs it.

(Zechariah 6:13) “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.”

Christ is both the Foundation Stone of his spiritual temple, his church, and the Builder of it (Matt. 16:18; Heb. 3:1-6; 1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:20-22).

(Hebrews 3:1-6) “Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; (2) Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house. (3) For this *man* was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. (4) For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God. (5) And Moses verily *was faithful* in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; (6) But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”

(1 Peter 2:5) “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

(Ephesians 2:20-22) “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.”

And he who is the Builder of the temple shall bear the glory of it. He and he alone shall have all the glory of the temple. All who know him hang upon him all the glory of his Father’s house (Isa. 22:24; Ps. 115:1).

(Isaiah 22:23-24) “And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father’s house. (24) And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father’s house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons.”

(Psalms 115:1) “Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth’s sake.”

All the glory of redemption, grace, and salvation belongs to our all-glorious Christ. “There is, and ever will be, glory in his cross and glory in his crown.” (Robert Hawker) When John saw him, he said, “*on his head were many crowns*” (Rev. 19:12). Our mighty Savior wears the crown of creation (Col. 1:16-19), the crown of providence (Rom. 14:9), and the crown of grace (John 5:21).

Every sinner saved by his blood, his righteousness, his grace, and his power, puts a new crown upon the Savior's glorious, sacred head, ascribing to him all the glory of his own salvation. Trusting him, we crown him everyday as our only rightful Lord, our God and Savior, to the praise of the glory of God the Father, who first trusted in Christ (Eph. 1:12).

CHRIST OUR KING

Fifth, the prophet describes Christ as the King upon his throne. — He “*shall sit and rule upon his throne.*” Jesus Christ is the crowned King of the universe. He rules everywhere. He rules everyone. He rules everything. And he rules always! How we rejoice to know that our Savior is the sovereign Monarch of the universe!

The Lamb is in “*the midst of the throne*” (Rev. 7:17). There he sits; and there he rules! And he has promised, “*to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with his Father in his throne*” (Rev. 3:21).

Our Lord Jesus sits and rules upon his throne to save his people (John 17:2). And there he sits and rules to feed, comfort, help, strengthen, and protect all his redeemed upon earth, as well as to give glory and happiness to all his redeemed in heaven.

OUR PRIEST

Next, we read, “*and he shall be a priest upon his throne.*” — Remember, Zechariah crowned Joshua with both the golden crown of a king and the silver crown of a priest. And here, he tells us that our Lord Jesus Christ is both our King who rules the universe for us and our Priest who intercedes for us upon his throne.

That is glorious! The throne upon which our great King sits and rules is both the throne of sovereign, irresistible power and “*the throne of grace.*” What encouragement that is to us to “*come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need*” (Heb. 4:16)

Now, look at the last line of verse 13. — “*And the counsel of peace is between them both.*” No doubt, this counsel of peace refers to the everlasting covenant, portrayed in one of the “*mountains of brass*” Zechariah saw in verse 1. That covenant made between God the Father and God the Son before the world began, shall assuredly be accomplished, because he who is the Surety of the covenant sits and rules upon his throne! Everlasting peace with God is secured for all God's Israel through the glorious undertaking and accomplishments of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Priest, who is our King!

THE MEMORIAL

Now, read verses 14 and 15.

(Zechariah 6:14-15) “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.”

Helem is the same man called Heldai in verse 10. These crowns upon the head of our Priest and King, sitting and ruling upon his throne are, to us sinners saved by him, for a memorial in the temple of our God. They are a glorious, memorable record of his accomplishments and his promises to all God's...

- Heldais, the people he leads through this world, out of captivity and into his house of grace.
- Tobijahs, the objects and beneficiaries of his great goodness.
- And his Jedaiahs, the people known of God from everlasting, as the objects of his everlasting love.

- All come together unto Christ as God's Josiahs, whose name means found of Jehovah and founded upon Jehovah!

To them is added one more name, "*Hen the son of Zephaniah.*"

- Hen means "grace."
- Zephaniah means "secreted."

Every sinner saved by Christ is a child of grace, the offspring of him whose name is "*Secret*" — "*Wonderful*" (Judges 13:18). He wears the memorial, assuring crowns of God's own appointment as our "*Priest upon his throne.*" And every sinner saved by his grace knows the memorial (1 John 4:13-19).

(1 John 4:13-19) "Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. (14) And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. (15) Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. (16) And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (17) Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. (18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (19) We love him, because he first loved us."

May God the Holy Spirit give us grace to behold our Savior's glory and grace. May he cause us to understand and confidently expect his purpose to stand firm, and his providence to accomplish it, drawn by the chariots and horses ordained of him to execute his will through all the earth!

Oh, may he give you eyes to see and a heart to trust our great Joshua, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom he has made to be, crowned, and accepted, as Priest and King forever! — That blessed, glorious, exalted Man, whose name is "*The BRANCH!*" If he will be so gracious, then this very day, the prophet's words (v. 15) will be fulfilled in you. — "*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.*" Oh, if he will graciously reveal himself, you will diligently obey the voice of the Lord. — Oh, blessed Savior, come, make yourself known. Make this the day of your powerful, omnipotent grace to chosen sinners. Make this the day of your powerful, omnipotent grace to me! — "*Draw me, and we will run after thee!*"

Amen