

[Romans 11:36](#) “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”

- **INTRODUCTION**

- Please open your Bibles to [Colossians 1:15–22](#). [Colossians 1:15-22](#) is one of the great portions of Scripture that truly focuses on the centrality of Christ. All of redemptive history is about Jesus. All of Scripture points with one voice to Christ. With such a strong emphasis it is clear that He is to be our whole life, He is to have first place in everything and we are here today to do just that, to celebrate Him now because of what He has done for us. READ SLOW

- [Col 1:15-22](#) | *15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For in Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, And in Him all things hold together. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church; Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—through Him—whether things on earth or things in heaven. 21 And although you were formerly alienated and enemies in mind and in evil deeds, 22 but now He reconciled you in the body of His flesh through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—*

- Although we were apart, although we were separated, like the exiles of Judea, we, who are Christians have been brought near by Christ and He has made us perfect through His sacrifice. Now in Him we are holy and blameless and beyond reproach.

- **MAINPOINT**

- The main point of the message today encapsulates what we just read and what we will see in [Zechariah 6](#). Our main point is taken from [Romans 11:36](#) which says “*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*” For the Christian recognizes that everything is given to us through Christ because everything has been given over to Him. He is the one that will be glorified forever and as such Christ is to be our life, not a part of our life, not something that we do on Sunday’s but the driving force behind every decision, every action, everything said and and all that we do.

- **ROADMAP**

- Today we will be in the book of Zechariah in chapter 6 and we are going to see just how central Christ is as He is presented as the Branch, the King, the Priest. The One who draws exiles near for the building up of His temple for His glory. We are going to learn just who this Branch is and what He possesses and what He will do. We will see our part as Christians in His building up His physical presence as the Sanctuary of God and learn just how we are to accomplish these. Ultimately, the main goal that I have for this message and I believe that all of Scripture has is to absolutely elevate Christ in our understanding and create within us such joyful devotion to Him for all that He has done for us ultimately all for His glory alone. Let's pray.

- **PRAYER**

- Abba, Your glorious Son is who we desire to know. Not just know about, not just to study but to experience and enjoy. To revel in His great goodness and graciousness. To delight in Your intricate and detailed plan that even considered us who were apart as outsiders as those who would be drawn near to You. Oh Abba, we love Your Son. Please remake us in His image. Please help us to submit to His reign over us in our lives. Please help us to believe His Words, to absorb them and make much of them day by day. We ask this not for our glory but for His. To Him be the glory forever and ever amen.

- **CONTEXT:**

- **Historical Context:** Please turn if you would to Zechariah chapter six and while you are turning there I will give us the context which I will be taking from the book of Ezra. In [Ezra 3](#) we learn that upon the return of the exiles to Judea in 537BC the levitical priests gathered with Joshua the High Priest and rebuilt the altar on the Temple mount. Interestingly, chapter 3 says that these people were terrified of the enemies that were around them ([Ezra 3.1-3](#)). They surely must have been, because there was a period of about 17 years that passed where the people did not work to rebuild the Temple. They became distracted rebuilding their homes and forgot that they were supposed to be building the Temple of the Lord.
- **Motivation:** We cannot miss this point - its important to understand that because of their fear of man they became unfaithful. [Ezra 4.4](#) affirms this, that the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, they turned their heart from obedience. [Ezra 5.12](#) told us that the exiles understood that because of disobedience they had been removed from the land. Two prophets began operating in 520BC, 17 years after the arrival of the exiles; Haggai who we will look at next week and Zechariah whom we studied two weeks ago.
- **Rebuke and Return:** These two prophets arose in [Ezra 5-6](#). [Zechariah 1](#) and [Haggai 1](#) indicate these prophets rebuked the people for their unfaithfulness and the people turned,

they repented and began the rebuilding of the Temple that the Lord had commanded. [Ezra 6.13-15](#) indicated that the prophets worked to encourage the people to rebuild the Temple.

- **The Reminder about Joshua:** Two week ago, if you will remember in [Zechariah 3](#), we looked at Joshua the High Priest who was standing accused by satan before the Lord in filthy garments, in that narrative he was cleansed by God and crowned with a crown as a wondrous sign. We read about how the Servant of the Yahweh, the Branch, would come and remove the iniquity of the land. He would be a new kind of leader, One who both represents as Priest and rules as King. Today we are going to be hearing more about this Branch and who He is, what He will be like and what He will do not only through the Jews but also as we will learn through us, those previously apart from the people of God.
- **SERMON**
- **I. Crowns Offered By Exiles (v9-11)**
 - **Big Picture:** The text that we will be in is Zechariah chapter 6, verses 9-15. I have divided the text into three points. Our first point is verses 9-11 and I have titled the point “Crowns Offered.” In verses 9-11 we will see a couple of the returned exiles and meet up in Josiah’s home to present the High Priest Joshua, with crowns which God has both commanded and supplied - proving God is the divine source of all good things.
 - **Text:** Let’s read the text starting in verse 9. [Zechariah 6:9–11](#) “*And the word of Yahweh came to me, saying, “Take an offering from the exiles, from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah; and you come the same day and come into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah, where they have come from Babylon. “And take silver and gold, make an ornate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.”*”
 - **Replay and Related to Context:** In this passage we see Joshua crowned again, literally, in the Hebrew with “crowns” plural; as I read it more than one crown. Zechariah has taken both Gold and Silver to do this. Crowns in the Old Testament are symbolic of rulership, royalty, glory and honor. What is amazing is considering the context... Right now, this is not a free state, they are under the domination of foreign rulers and have been for the last century. This is astonishing in and encouraging, this sign points to a point in time in the future when they will be under the rulership of the Messiah. These beautiful crowns are a symbol of the glory and honor to be given to the coming Messiah as we will soon see; but just briefly, we should understand that although they offered the crowns, this was commanded and supplied by God.
 - **Future Expectation:** And we see that principle laid out in [Revelation 4.10-11](#) where 24 elders seated before the throne of Christ cast their crowns before Him. Crowns are symbolic of honor and glory and in the future those before the throne will give Christ all

glory. [Romans 11:36](#) “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”

- **Crowns To Be Received:** Crowns are a fascinating subject to dive into, because the Christian can expect to receive them... and I will briefly mention three crowns that are referred to in Scripture. For those who are earnestly anticipating, or rather love, the return of Christ [2 Timothy 4:8](#) says that there is a crown of righteousness. [James 1.12](#) says that for those who love Christ and persevere under trial they can expect a crown of life. Lastly, [1 Peter 5:4](#) says that for those who are elders in Christ’s church and under-shepherds we can expect a crown of glory. These crowns are an encouragement to grow in our love for Christ, they are expected rewards that we will return to Christ because we will recognize that they are from Him. These crowns are promised and we know the character of the Promise Maker is good. PAUSE
- **Transition:** Let’s go to our next point.
- **II. King and Priest (v12-13)**
 - **Brief overview of point II:** Verse 12-13 are our second point and it is all about this mysterious Messianic figure known as the Branch. When He comes He is going to be very obvious. He will do what no one else can do. He will build the Temple - which incidentally the folks from the exile still have not yet completed - and He will rule and represent as both King and Priest. So that is the title of our second point, King and Priest. Let’s read the text.
 - **Text: 12** “Then you will say to him, ‘Thus says *Yahweh of hosts*, “Behold, a man whose name is Branch, and He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of Yahweh. **13** “Indeed, it is He who will build the temple of Yahweh, and He who will bear the splendor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.””
 - **Replay the text:** The Sovereign God of all the universe promises what was alluded to in [Zechariah 3:8](#) . This coming One, this Branch will be a man, He will be both Priest and King - something previously unseen within the family of Israel - there are no Levitical King Priests ever recorded in Scripture. The Branch will be different... this Branch will have dominion over everything, He will build the Temple, and then that promise is repeated to ensure no one misses the point - the Branch will build the Temple . Furthermore, the text says that there will be harmony between these dual roles of Priest and King. Representation and Rulership will be joined together in this mysterious Branch.
 - **The Branch Explained:** The Branch character in Zechariah clearly points to Christ, but let’s develop who the Branch is just from Isaiah, there are other texts but Isaiah’s are

unique compared to Zechariah. The Branch in [Isaiah 4.2-6](#) is One who is beautiful, glorious, fruitful, and He washes away filth - Just what we saw alluded to in [Zechariah 3](#) . In [Isaiah 11:1-4](#) we learn that the Branch will sprout from the Stump of Jesse - He will be a descendent of King David. This Branch will possess the 7 Spirits of God, The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of Yahweh. He will judge righteously and put the wicked to death and something not even David consistently did! On the other hand, [Isaiah 53](#) tells us that this tender Shoot, will be a man of sorrows, despised and He will carry our griefs and sorrows - He would be pierced for our transgressions so that we might be healed. This Branch is astonishing! There is no one else like this in History. Only Christ could be the Branch.

- **The Role of King-Priest:** This revelation must have caused some confusion to the exiles hearing this message. The roles of King and Priest are quite distinct. The Priest represents the people before God and the King has the role of shepherd over God's people. These roles in Israel's history had never been united previously, but that being said, consider this, approximately two millennia previously another Priest King existed and is mentioned in [Genesis 14](#) , Melchizedek, who was without father and mother, having neither beginning of days nor end of life but like the Son of God. There is precedent for this unique role of King Priest and Christ is the fulfillment of the type! This dual role of King and Priest is a picture of Christ who is to come. This Christ will represent His people before God and rule over them. Ok, we looked at the Old Testament, we have looked at Zechariah, I have summarized Isaiah's contributions and alluded to Melchizedek in Genesis - let's look at the fulfillment in Christ in [Hebrews 10](#) .
- **What Christ Has Done:** Turn with me to [Hebrews 10:11-14](#) *“And every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, waiting from that time UNTIL HIS ENEMIES ARE PUT AS A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”* PAUSE This King Priest, who is Christ, has made His saints perfect before God and has sat down at the right hand of God waiting until God places all of His enemies under His feet. Zechariah has told us this King Priest, this Branch, He will build the Temple of Yahweh, He will bear the splendor, He will sit as King and rule, He will represent as Priest and there will be harmony in these dual roles.

• III. Come Build (v14-15)

- **Transition to final text:** Let's get back to Zechariah as we close out the chapter. We are going to see our part as Christians even 2500 years ago hinted at as the Prophet speaks of those who are far off coming to participate in building the Temple and friends I believe that this is speaking about us

- *14 “Now the crown will become a memorial in the temple of Yahweh to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. 15 “And those who are far off will come and build the temple of Yahweh.” Then you will know that Yahweh of hosts has sent me to you. And it will happen if you utterly listen to the voice of Yahweh your God.*
- **Focusing on the Jew Gentile Temple Connection:** I want to zero in on verse 15, the text says that those who are far off will come. The phrase “those who are far off” can indicate more than just returning Jewish exiles - it can also include Gentiles who are apart, separated, not of the people of God by heritage. Both Jew and Gentile will come together to do something interesting. THEY will come and build the Temple of Yahweh. Isn't that fascinating? If we look back at the second point we will see that [Zechariah 6:12–13](#) stated, no, *repeated* that the Branch would build the Temple but apparently these who return from the exile are going to take part... How can that be? Did that ever happen? Did that happen after the Exiles returned, did Gentiles come to build the Temple? We need to recognize that a fundamental change needs to take place in our understanding. The role of the Physical embodiment of the Presence of Yahweh will no longer be confined to a building but will instead be in people. This is a change from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant.
- **Transition from Old to New Covenant Reality:** This change from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant from Physical to Spiritual was mentioned by Christ to the Samaritan woman by the well in [John 4:21](#) “Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.” Physical location, physical building is not the reality, it is the spiritual reality that ultimately matters and He affirmed that just three verses later when He said [John 4:24](#) ““God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”” Christian you are the Temple of Yahweh!
- **Draw Out To the Body of Christ as the Temple:** The Temple functions as the physical representation of the presence of Yahweh. When Christ came in the flesh and left His Spirit to indwell believers we who are Christians, both Jewish and Gentile members of the Church became, as it were, the Temple of the Lord. [1 Corinthians 3:16](#) “Do you not know that you are a sanctuary of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” A few chapters later in [1 Corinthians 6:19](#) “Or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?” Indwelt by the Spirit of Christ He is using Christians to build up the Sanctuary of God - His very presence here on earth. That is a stunning responsibility! Let's turn to Ephesians for a bit. [Ephesians 2:19–22](#) “So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,

in whom the whole building, being joined together, is growing into a holy sanctuary in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

- **Transition to Developing the Importance of the Church:** Christian, you are the building, you are the Temple of Yahweh. Will you build the Temple of the Lord with wood, hay or stubble ([1 Cor 3:12](#)) those won't last, will you build with gold, silver and precious stones, will you build a Temple that will satisfy yourself or Yahweh? Will you build in your own strength? That will never do! We must be empowered by Christ's Spirit, we must believe what Christ's Spirit has taught us in His Word. We must grow in and mature in Christ's Church, we must exercise our Spiritual Gifts given by God and that ultimately takes place when we listen to the Lord... Please turn to [John 15](#) and as you are turning there I will mention that [Zechariah 6](#) closes out with [Zechariah 6:15c](#) *it will happen if you utterly listen to the voice of Yahweh your God.*

- **APPLICATION:**

- That text is our linchpin to the application portion of the message, these things will happen when we listen to the Lord. How do we listen to the Lord. Do we head out into the woods to wait for an audible voice? Do we look for signs in the sky? No, we have the Word of God that teaches us how to do what He has called us to do. We need to listen and keep on listening to God's Word and furthermore we need to listen with the intent to obey. I had you turn to [John 15](#) because it is here that the Branch motif becomes personally relevant to us. Unless we are in the Branch, listening to Him, abiding in Him we are not going to build up the body, we are not going to be fruitful, we are not going to further His kingdom. Abiding in Christ is critical, the most essential part of your spiritual life and Christ affirms that in [John 15:4-8](#) which says: [John 15:4-8](#) *““Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit from itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.””*
- Three things of note: **First**, Abiding in Christ is intentionally believing what He says in His Word, this will always force action on our part, that's called fruit. **Secondly**, if Christ's word is in us we are to ask for and desire God's will, whose will? God's will to be done in our life no matter what, **Thirdly**, to maximize God's glory we must bear fruit, which is what proves we are actually in Christ. These things will take place when we utterly listen to the voice of Yahweh our God
- Two final things to mention, an observation and a warning as a segue to our conclusion.

- **OBSERVATION**

- First the observation, boasting in our own merit, deeds or accomplishments is about giving ourselves glory and divorces us from the Branch - but if we are seeking after the glory of God we will not be proud and arrogant, we will not be building up the Temple of the Lord in our own strength with burnable, perishable items... [John 7:18](#) “*He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*” So let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly so that you might seek after His glory alone.

- **WARNING**

- Lastly, a warning speaking of the Messiah and His kingdom is not popular and costs... Jesus states in [Matthew 23:35](#) that Zechariah lost his life, he was murdered between the sanctuary he was provoking the Jews to build and the altar where they offered sacrifices. Following the Crucified Christ has a cost but it is so small compared to the glory waiting ahead.

- **CONCLUSION**

- In conclusion, I would have you turn to [Romans 11](#) as I summarize what we have learned today. In our text today we learned that God had returned the exiles from Babylon to the promised land to rebuild the Temple. A period of about 17 years passed and the temple was not rebuilt but then Zechariah and a few others participated in this wonderful sign. These new exiles had come offering crowns which were placed on the head of Joshua the High Priest as a picture of the crowns to be offered to Christ in eternity, returning glory to Him. We looked at three types of crowns and how they were earned, through eagerly waiting for and anticipating the return of Christ, loving Him and persevering under trial as well as faithfully serving Him in this life. We looked at the Branch who would build up His temple as both King and Priest. We learned about the Branch who He would be and what He would do and then we recognized our part hinted at in the text in that those who are far off would be brought near to participate in the building of the Temple - that was not just exiles but also Gentiles. We saw in the New Testament how the Physical representation of the Temple would be replaced by those worshipping in Spirit and in truth and understood what our role is as the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit. And then we closed out our text by hearing the promise made by God, that these things would happen if we utterly listen to the word of Yahweh. Christ, fleshed out this understanding in [John 15](#) as we were taught how to abide in Him. First we must believe what He says, Secondly, we must ask for and desire God’s will, Thirdly, we must bear fruit to glorify God.

- I had you turn to [Romans 11](#) because it chapter filled with hope for the Jews. It speaks not only of the Gentiles being grafted into the family of God but it also speaks of the time

when the Jew will fully enjoy communion with the Lord. Because of God's grace we as Christians are experience that now but there is coming a day when all the people of God will enjoy Him together because of what the Branch has done... In the end of Romans we hear the Apostle burst into praise for what God has done. He says in [Romans 11:33–36](#) *“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE REPAID TO HIM? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”*

- It is all about Jesus, let's stand and I will close in prayer

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