

BEHOLD, THE MAN WHOSE NAME IS THE BRANCH

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TEXT:

“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. 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” (Zechariah 6:13-14).

Introduction:

1) Background to text:

(1) Jerusalem had departed from God & was carried into Babylonian captivity in 586 BC, temple destroyed (70 yrs of captivity).

(2) After Nebuchadnezzar's death (562 BC), Babylon had a series of weak rulers.

(3) By 549 B.C. Cyrus, a Persian, had defeated Median King and united the Medes and Persians.

(4) In 539 B.C. Cyrus entered & took the city of Babylon.

(5) Had been prophesied over 150 yrs earlier that Cyrus would allow the Jews to return.

(6) “Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;” (Isaiah 44:24).

(7) “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things” (Isaiah 45:7).

(8) Upon their return in 536 B.C. the Jews restored the altar and laid the foundation of the temple. But the work ceased until the 2nd year of Darius I.

(9) Haggai & Zechariah were commissioned to stir up the people to complete the work.

(10) In the midst of Zechariah's work foretells of "The Branch" who would build another temple - church.

(11) Let's note some things relative to the man whose name is "The Branch".

I. HIS NAME:

1) "The Branch" - a sprout or branch.

(1) “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots;” (Isaiah 11:1).

(2) “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” (Isaiah 11:10).

(3) This is Christ.

(4) “And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust” (Romans 15:12).

2) He shall grow up out of His place.

(1) "And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust" (Isaiah 53:2).

(2) "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people" (Acts 3:22-23).

II. "AND HE SHALL BUILD THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD."

1) Temple very important.

- (1) Solomon's temple, Zerrubabel's temple.
- (2) Think of worship, holiness.

2) The church is the Lord's temple today.

(1) "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:20-22).

(2) Did not mention temple of Diana.

(3) "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1Corinthians 3:16-17).

(4) "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2Corinthians 6:14-16).

(5) Some think the church ought to change - the Lord didn't think so.

(6) "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:" (Ephesians 3:10-11).

3) He shall bear the glory.

(1) "Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory" (Ephesians 3:13), honored, glorified.

(2) "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

(3) "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (Colossians 1:18).

4) People who say the church is not important have not seen the church from God's viewpoint. (Temple of God, glorifies God).

III. HE SHALL SIT AND RULE UPON HIS THRONE.

1) He is King.

(1) "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" (Hebrews 1:3).

(2) "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom" (Hebrews 1:8).

2) Upon the throne of David.

(1) "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:" (2Samuel 7:12-14).

(2) "But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth" (Luke 1:13-14).

IV. HE SHALL BE A PRIEST UPON HIS THRONE.

1) He is our High Priest.

(1 "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession" (Hebrews 4:14).

(2) "But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:24-25).

2) Note; a double office (kingly & priestly).

3) After the order of Melchizedek.

(1) "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God" (Genesis 14:18).

(2) "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm 110:4).

(3) "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (Hebrews 5:6).

(4) "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (Hebrews 6:19-20).

4) Note - priest while on throne. - yet can't be a priest on earth.

(1 "For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law" (Hebrews 8:4).

(2) Therefore, throne can't be on earth.

5) Counsel of peace shall be between them both, (between both offices).

(1) "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful,

Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6-7).

(2) “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 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; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Ephesians 2:14-16).

CONCLUSION:

- 1) See the glory of this man whose name is "The Branch".
- 2) Also see the glory of that which is built by Him.
- 3) He is exalted, preeminent!
- 4) Are you in Christ?

(1) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

(2) “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27).