

Jesus the Priest-King

INTRODUCTION

Our lesson text is taken from the **Zechariah 6:9-15** – “(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! 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. (15) Even those who are far away 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.”

BACKGROUND

A, The Book of Zechariah.

1. The 38th book in the Bible, 38th book in the Old Testament.
2. The 16th of 17 books of prophecy.
3. The 11th of 12 Minor Prophets books.
4. Bears the name of its author. Zechariah was a popular name shared by no less than twenty-nine Old Testament characters.

B. Like his predecessors, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, Zechariah was of priestly lineage as the son of Berechiah and grandson of Iddo.

1. According to Zechariah 2:4, Zechariah was called to prophesy at an early age in 520 B.C.
2. He was born in Babylon and brought to Palestine by his father when the Jewish exiles returned under Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest, the first of three returns, this one occurring in 536 B.C. The second return would be led by Ezra some eighty years later, and the third return under the leadership of Nehemiah some 12 years after the second.
3. Among the prophets, he was a younger contemporary of Haggai.
4. According to statements made by our Lord in **Matthew 23:35**, Zechariah was “murdered between the temple and the altar” in the same way that an

earlier Zechariah (son of Jehoiada) was martyred according to 2 Chronicles 24:20-21.

- C. The Book of Zechariah relates historically to the rebuilding of the temple and the re-establishment of the temple service.
1. Construction on the second temple was begun in 536 B.C. but discontinued two years later in 534 B.C.
 2. The work was resumed fourteen years later in 520 B.C. and completed six years thereafter in 514 B.C.
 3. The rebuilding of the temple involved six years of actual work done over a twenty-year period.
- D. Zechariah uses a series of eight visions (1-6), four messages (7-8), and two burdens (9-14) to portray God's future plans for His covenant people.
1. The first eight chapters of Zechariah were written to encourage the remnant while they were rebuilding the temple.
 2. The last six chapters of the book were written after the completion of the temple to anticipate Israel's coming Messiah, a part of which serves as the basis for this study.

THE “BRANCH” – THE “PRIEST – THE “KING”

- A. Zechariah provides more specific Messianic predictions than any other of the Minor Prophets. In the lesson text before us, Zechariah is led to see the “Branch,” the future Messiah (Christ) as both a priest and a king. Most unusual, wouldn't you say?
1. As we note from among the 2,930 Bible characters, priests do not wear a king's crown, and kings do not wear priestly robes.
 3. Further study will note that some men were priests were not prophets or kings. Some men who were prophets were not priests or kings.
 4. Some men who were kings were not priests or prophets.
 5. And too, there were some priests who were prophets but not kings.
 6. There was a least one king was also a priest. Melchizedec was king of Salem and priest of the “God Most High” (Genesis 14:18).
 7. David was the king of Israel and the prophet of the Lord (2 Samuel 23:2).
 8. Samuel was both a prophet and a priest (1 Samuel).
 9. Likewise, Jeremiah was both a priest and a prophet.
- B. As great as these characters are, none has ever claimed the titles of prophet, priest, and king simultaneously.
1. The Scriptures reveal that Jesus Christ was the only Bible character to be all three (Prophet, Priest, & King), and all at the same time.
 2. Our Lord faithfully performed the duties required of each office. To know what all three were is helpful in conveying Who Christ was . . . and is.

JESUS CHRIST AS PROPHET

- A. The word “prophet” means one who speaks for another.
1. Thus, a prophet of God is one who speaks for God.
 2. While there have been some false prophets, some good prophets, and some great prophets, let it be known that the greatest prophet of God is Jesus Christ.
 3. Over 1400 years before Jesus’ birth, of Him Moses prophesied in **Deuteronomy 18:15, 18** - “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear . . . I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.” As a prophet of God, the prophet about Whom Moses spoke, would speak for God.
 4. Jesus said in **John 7:17** – “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me.”
 5. He continued in **John 8:26** – “. . . I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him.”
 6. And again in **John 14:24** – “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”
 7. In **Matthew 17:5**, God said, “. . . This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”
- B. A good prophet is faithful to his calling. Christ indeed was!

JESUS CHRIST AS HIGH PRIEST

- A. The work of a priest and the work of a prophet are not the same.
1. Through prophets God spoke to man. Through priests men came to God with their worship.
 2. In **Leviticus 10:10-11**, priests were told to “. . . distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses” According to the Law of Moses there was always to be one high priest.
 3. The Hebrew writer wrote, “For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins” (**Hebrews 5:1**).
 4. Continuing in Hebrews 9:7, we read: “But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance” (**Hebrews 9:7**).
 5. Through all of their service, the Levitical priests were to help bring the people of God to Him through worship and to provide for the dealing with man’s sins in the manner prescribed by God.

- B. While there were many faithful high priests Who served in Israel, none could compare to our great high priest-Jesus Christ.
1. While the Levitical priests were servants, Jesus was more . . . He was the Son of God!
 2. While the Levitical priests offered animal sacrifices, Jesus offered Himself. “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (**Hebrews 9:12**).
 3. While the Levitical priests offered many sacrifices . . . Jesus offered one sacrifice for all sins forever. “So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation” (**Hebrews 9:28**).
 4. While the Levitical priests served the tabernacle . . . Jesus served the greater tabernacle. “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation” (**Hebrews 9:11**).
 - a. We read in **Hebrews 10:19-22** – “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”
 - b. We are told in **1 Timothy 3:15** that the “house of God” is the “church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
 5. While the Levitical priests served the tabernacle . . . Jesus served the true tabernacle. “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man” (**Hebrews 8:1-2**).
- C. Through the efforts of our great High Priest, our own sins are removed through His own blood, and we are made a part of the true tabernacle of God that, unlike the tabernacle in the wilderness erected by man, is erected by the Lord.
1. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus promised, “. . . On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”
 2. That is “the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man” (**Hebrews 8:2**).

JESUS CHRIST AS KING

- A, While a prophet speaks to man for God and a priest helps man worship God, a king whom God has appointed rules over a kingdom God has appointed.

1. Upon returning to Heaven, Jesus sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3).
2. He is now ruling over the house of God, which is the church (Hebrews 10:21; 1 Timothy 3:15).
3. He is now head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:22).
4. The clear teachings of God's Word in this matter utterly refute the false doctrines put forth by the premillennialists.
5. Does Jesus sit on an earthly throne ruling over an earthly kingdom?
 - a. The proper answer is no. In **John 18:33**. Pilate asked Jesus, ". . . Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered him in **John 18:36** – ". . . My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."
 1. Jesus was saying that his kingdom was not from this earth.
 2. Jesus was saying that his kingdom was not an earthly one, but a spiritual one.
 - b. The debate has long ranged as to whether or not the church and the kingdom are the same. According to God's Word they are.
 1. In Acts 2:31-35, the apostle Peter told the vast audience on that day that Jesus was sitting on the throne of David.
 2. The implication was that he was reigning as a king. In **1 Timothy 6:15**, the apostle Paul described Christ as ". . . He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords"
 3. In **Colossians 1:13-14**, Paul wrote: "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."
 4. It is great to have a king like Christ and be in a kingdom like the church.

JESUS CHRIST-PROPHET, PRIEST, KING-WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

A. As a PROPHET, Jesus has brought to man the very words of God regarding any and all areas God want communicated to us.

1. In times past some prophets betrayed their calling and in so doing became false prophets.
2. God's ultimate message about the fulfillment of all things and the total cleansing of the sins of men, could not be trusted to just any prophet but rather to the Prophet of all prophets.
3. Jesus has brought us God's words on many subjects, and God has said, "Hear ye Him!"
4. Oh how we need to hear Him as He tells us God's will about:

- a. About faith.
- b. About repenting of our sins.
- c. About being baptized for the remission of sins
- d. About the church.
- e. About Heaven.
- f. About hell
- g. About eternal life.
- h. About the judgment.
- i. About faithfulness.
- j. Etc.

5. The Hebrew writer said in **Hebrews 1:2** – “ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”

B. As a PRIEST, Jesus has provided for us what we could never provide for ourselves-remission of our sins.

1. Throughout the Old Testament, while there were many priests, there were fewer high priests
 - a. Josephus reckons that 83 high priests officiated from Aaron to the fall of the Second Temple in A.D. 70.
 - b. Each priest was born, served, and died. They were prevented by death from continuing. Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, that is He holds His priesthood permanently.
2. Because Jesus was of the tribe of Judah rather than of the priestly tribe of Levi, we read in **Hebrews 7:12** – “For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.” In order for Jesus to be a priest God had to change the covenant . . . the law . . . the agreement he had previously made.
 - a. That was done. God said to Jeremiah in **Jeremiah 31:31-33** – “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”
 - b. The Hebrew writer said in **Hebrews 9:15** – “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

- c. With that new covenant man now has a new high Priest-Jesus Christ. **Hebrews 7:17** tells us that Christ was “. . . a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”
- 3. Jesus has done for us what all other the other eighty-three high priests combined could not do for those to whom they ministered.
 - a. Instead of offering the blood of animals, He offered His own blood. Jesus offered Himself as the sacrificial Lamb (John 1:29).
 - b. Instead of taking the life of an animal, He gave His own.
 - c. Instead of rolling forward the sins of the people annually, He removed them.
 - d. Instead of serving in a tabernacle or temple build by the hands of men, He served in the tabernacle (church) built by the living God. “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (**Hebrews 2:16**).
- C. As KING Jesus reigns over His spiritual kingdom (the church) and His devoted people (Christians) as His law (the Gospel) is carried out daily until such time when all His kingdom is taken up and presented to the father (1 Corinthians 15:24).**
 - 1. And just as any kingdom, the kingdom of Jesus Christ has its terms of admission (John 3:5).
 - 2. And just like any kingdom, the kingdom of Jesus Christ has rules which must be obeyed in order to remain in good standing with those that rule (2 John 9-11).
 - 3. But unlike all other kingdoms and all other kings, the kingdom of Jesus Christ will never be brought down . . . will never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44).

CONCLUSION

- A. Thankfully, God has provided us with a better prophet, priest, and king-Jesus Christ.
 - 1. He brings a superior message.
 - 2. H offered a superior sacrifice.
 - 3. He rules over His superior kingdom.
- B. Since Jesus is the superior prophet, priest, and king, we must submit to him, for there is nothing to follow which can supersede
 - 1. His word (John 12:48).
 - 2. His sacrifice (Hebrews 10:14).
 - 3. Or His authority (Matthew 28:18).
- C. Let us heed His message, take full advantage of His sacrifice, and yield ourselves to His authority before the opportunity to do so is gone.
- D. God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**