

Zechariah 4-6

Good evening, Church.

It is great to be here with you all tonight.

Here on Wednesday nights, we are making our way through the Old Testament, and we are in Zechariah 4-6.

It has been an incredible journey so far.

I was reminded this week of my 2012 trip to Ensenada, Mexico.

I stood on an empty lot with a pastor who had the desire to build a church in this area that was overrun with drugs and gangs.

On the way home from that trip, I asked the Lord, "Why don't you send him someone to help him, to get that church built?"

The Lord spoke to me on that long drive that I was going to be the one He sent.

I told the elders immediately, when I went home, what God had put on my heart; the people were ready for a church.

They had purchased the land, leveled it all out, and they were waiting.

So the elders gave me their blessing, enough of a budget to work with, and over the next months, the pastor down in Mexico started buying all the material I told him we needed.

Now, I really didn't think this through and came at it naively.

I was a youth pastor, and all I had to help me were a bunch of kids and one youth leader who was an electrician with no experience building anything.

We drove down with a lot of excitement, but when we arrived at the spot, I looked at all the material and the weak foundation they had laid for the walls, and a feeling of dread came over me.

How can I do this with 20 teenagers and one electrician?

My enthusiasm faded quickly as I stared aimlessly at what I had gotten myself into.

But the pastor down there came over and pointed out that the whole community had come out to watch them build their church; the kids were there in the hundreds.

I said, “I hope we can finish this...” He saw my worried face, and he said something like, “Oh, we can already see it finished...”

They held in their hearts this hope of seeing that church built.

I didn’t see it at the time, but I took a step forward and called everyone to pray.

We asked the Lord to bless our hands as we went to work.

I knew in that moment I was stuck in this mode because I was looking at the project through the lens of what human strength could accomplish.

After we prayed, I was now looking to God... and what He could do...

“Use us, Lord, this motley crew of men and children, and build Yourself a church.”

I had those kids get the tools ready, and we started throwing wood at that foundation.

It was incredible, the Lord blessed our day, and the walls were all up...

No kids were missing any fingers or toes... and we actually had fun teaching them how to use tools.

The next day was the roof, and we knocked it out... in two days, the structure was there.

They started meeting for church in that building the next week...

Over the next few months, we would go down and do work here and there...

And the local church down there, as it started to grow, took the reins and started working on it.

A few years later, the land next to it was purchased, and we built the children's ministry building.

It was nothing short of a miracle that God used a former carpenter-turned-pastor and a ragtag group of teens.

Some of which are on staff here right now...

Well, in Zechariah's day, the Temple foundation had been laid, but the people were looking at the project of building the rest of the Temple, and they became discouraged, weak, opposed, and tired.

It looked like a mountain of impossibilities, yet they were looking at it all in man's strength.

The prophet Zechariah was called to the ministry to speak to the people and to lift their eyes to God.

And in our chapters tonight, God will pull back the curtain and show His defeated people something they could not see with their natural eyes.

They will be able to understand that God's Spirit was still at work, God's eyes were still watching, God's judgment was still moving, and God's King was still coming.

The message is simple tonight: "What looks impossible in human hands becomes unstoppable when God breathes upon it."

Let's pray, and we will get into the teaching.

If there were a theme verse for what God is doing in our Church, I think it would come from our portion of Scripture tonight.

Zechariah 4:6 'not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord.

I marvel at what God has done over the last ten years here in His Church...

I could do a topical on that verse alone, but that is not why we are here tonight.

We are going through God's Word and studying that verse in context... looking at it from the history and circumstances in which it was spoken, it gives us greater insight.

Look with me at Zechariah 4:1 now...

Vision of the Lampstand and Olive Trees

4:1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. **2** And he said to me, "What do you see?"

So I said, "I am looking, and there *is* a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the *stand* seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. **3** Two olive trees *are* by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

It is important here to remember that God gives Zechariah a series of 8 visions.

It does seem they came in the same night, but that is not certain.

The timing of his visions is 519 BC.

We have already looked at four visions – The horses, the horns, and the measuring line- and we ended last time with the trial of the High Priest Joshua, the religious authority of the day.

Those visions wore out the prophet, because his mind and heart were so taxed.

He has fallen asleep now in his own dream...

And we see here the angel had to awaken him.

It really does seem fitting that this fifth vision comes at this point, when he was physically exhausted.

He will learn a powerful lesson here that God's work on earth does not depend on our ability or power but originates in His Spirit.

This vision will shift from religious authority to civil authority, namely Zerubbabel, the acting Governor, who oversees the Temple's rebuilding.

Joshua the priest was cleansed in chapter 3, and Zerubbabel will be commissioned into the work.

Joshua needed access to God, where Zerubbabel would need to get busy in the work, doing it God's Way.

It is all applicable to us, as this Christian journey is about having access to and fellowship with God, and living out a life of obedience to His Word.

The prophet explains here what he sees upon awakening.

It is a somewhat difficult vision to make sense of.

At the center, we see the traditional seven-branched lampstand... it is also known as a Menorah.

It is probably the one that was made for the Temple, made of Gold.

The Menorah is everywhere in Israel, even to this day, serving as a symbol of the nation.

A giant Menorah sits outside the Government building called the Knesset, in West Jerusalem.

Also, in the Old City, they have one made sitting in a glass made to the exact specifications of Moses's writings.

It is believed it will sit in the rebuilt Temple.

The Jews were to be a light to the world, leading all people to the one true God.

And here, Zechariah sees the golden candlestick beside two olive trees.

They had a direct line to the candlestick, feeding it with the oil it needed to keep the flame going.

The prophet sees this system put together, with oil feeding the seven lamps.

A collection bowl is on top of the candlestick, and we are not told how it is there.

But a series of seven pipes brings the oil to where it is needed.

So, the trees are providing the fuel needed for the candlestick.

Verse 4 now.

4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What *are* these, my lord?"

5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?"

And I said, "No, my lord."

6 So he answered and said to me:

"This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'
Says the LORD of hosts.

Remember, Zechariah was also a priest... he was not just a prophet.

He knew the Temple rituals and ceremonies.

There were certain ones for lighting the candlestick.

And Zechariah would know that the priests usually refilled the lampstand with oil.

The vision showed something unique; the lamps were fueled supernaturally.

There was not a priest involved at all, no work of man's hands.

Zechariah wants clarification here.

He is not a shy prophet at all. He asks the angel three times, just in this chapter alone, to explain things to him.

He knows that what he is seeing is so important.

And throughout God's Word, olive oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The oil has healing and softening properties and was flammable, producing light.

The symbol fits well.

God is telling the prophet in this vision that if the Temple is to be worked on, rebuilt, and His people restored, it will not be done through human ingenuity but by the Holy Spirit.

This really is a good reminder for us tonight.

Human endeavor and effort always fall short compared to the fuel from God.

His Spirit is that fuel that brings about true and lasting light to this world.

And for effective light to come from each of our lives and ministries, we absolutely need the Holy Spirit.

I find it fascinating that John sees the Church as seven golden candlesticks in Revelation.

Jesus instructed us to be light in this world.

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Where does our fuel come from to produce this light?

Zech. 4:6 'not by might or by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord.

One pastor wrote, "If God removed His Spirit out of the world, about 95% of what the church is doing would continue unimpeded."¹

There are a lot of gimmicks being used to get people into the pews and marketing ploys to promote the church brand.

We are depending on our own flesh instead of God's supernatural power.

No wonder so many in the ministry are tired, burned out, and fatigued.

Zerubbabel had an important mission here, but he and the people were fatigued as they looked at the mounds of debris and calculated the work before them.

¹ <https://www.sandyadams.org/sermon/zechariah-4-6/>

He had been faithful to the task at hand, but he did not seek the fuel he needed to keep moving, the Holy Spirit.

Effort without the proper fuel will always lead to exhaustion...

We must pray daily for the Holy Spirit to empower us...

Look at verse 7 now...

7 'Who *are* you, O great mountain?

Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain!

And he shall bring forth the capstone

With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"

8 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

9 "The hands of Zerubbabel

Have laid the foundation of this temple;

His hands shall also finish *it*.

Then you will know

That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

10 For who has despised the day of small things?
For these seven rejoice to see
The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.
They are the eyes of the LORD,
Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

This really is an assuring Word of encouragement for the weary workers there with Zerubbabel.

God's Spirit will be with them to help them overcome this huge task.

It looked like a mountain was before Zerubbabel.

He had few workers, a small budget, and discouragement.

Could God really use this man and those with him?

Yes, if he trusts in the Holy Spirit, this mountain will become level ground.

Jesus promised...

Matt 17:20 for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

Notice here that Zerubbabel's job, as given to him, is something God will use his hands to accomplish.

God's Spirit also helps with the practical things we are called to do.

The Holy Spirit is paramount to the work getting done.

Here, the capstone or the trim work, the last part of this building project, would be completed if Zerubbabel relies on the Holy Spirit.

Now, the odds were against them big time, and because of this, all glory and honor would go to God.

Notice they shout, "Grace, grace to it!" because this Temple, being rebuilt from destruction, would be a testament to God's Grace.

When the Spirit of God is at work, all the Glory goes to God's Grace and not man's effort.

In verse 10, it says, **“For who has despised the day of small things?” (Nehemiah 4:10)**

If you remember from our study of the prophet Haggai's writings, when the Temple was being rebuilt, the older generation who remembered the beauty and grandeur of Solomon's Temple mocked and cried about this smaller, less impressive one that Zerubbabel was constructing.

Well, here God speaks to those who would criticize the work He is trying to accomplish.

“Don't despise the day of small things.”

Listen, I have learned this about our God: big and impressive things don't mean that God is in it.

We have this innate way of looking at things that are massive, buildings, crowds, and budgets, and thinking, well, God is blessing it.

We assume God does not work in the small, subtle, silent settings.

I just saw an interview with a mega-church pastor who fell a while back, who kind of clowned small churches. He said small churches lack divine activity, and the clearest sign of God's blessing is numerical growth.²

J. Vernon McGee has some words to say on the matter: "We Americans are impressed with big and brassy. We like our Christian work to be a success story. And we measure success by the size of the building and the crowds that come to it. Well, I am becoming more and more convinced that the Lord is working in quiet ways and in quiet places today."³

"My friend, if the spirit of God is not in our enterprises today, they will come to naught because God is not carrying on His work by our brain or brawn."⁴

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0HCv7Gk71A&t=547s>

³ <https://www.sandyadams.org/sermon/zechariah-4-6/>

⁴ McGee, J. V. (1991). [*Thru the Bible commentary: The Prophets \(Zechariah\)*](#) (electronic ed., Vol. 32, p. 55). Thomas Nelson.

I am not saying God cannot use the big stuff, but an honest scan through God's Word shows us He uses small things to bring big Glory to His Name.

Maybe as you look at your life tonight, you feel small, insignificant, and overlooked.

Maybe the ministry God has you in is not as noticeable as others.

You teach a handful of kids, you share your faith at work, or you greet people at the door of the Church.

Well, don't despise the day of small things.

You have no idea what God is doing behind the scenes with your faithfulness.

I remember within the first couple of years of Jess and me being saved, Jesus so radically changed us, but we were still growing in our faith.

We did not necessarily know how to evangelize or share the Gospel with great confidence.

So, we relied heavily on tracks... and we would leave them everywhere and hand them to strangers we would converse with.

Often, we would leave them with a tip after a meal at a restaurant.

I sometimes wondered if people just threw them in the trash, and I would have moments when I doubted they were even read.

Until one day, my co-worker Matt Mooney came on the job and asked, “Hey, were you and Jess at that steak place on London Bridge Road last night?”

I said, “Yes, man, they had good food.”

He said, “My wife’s friend works there, she was your waitress, and she told Trinity that this nice couple left a tip and a folded printed piece of paper telling her about God, and it was everything she needed to read in that moment.”

He let me know that her life was a mess, and that she had been looking for answers, even attempting to pray to a God if there was one.

And Jess and I left her that track, and she believed it was God answering her.

I had no idea the impact such a small thing could have on a person's life.

Little things in the Hands of a Big God can be life-changing for people.

Don't despise the day of small things... certainly a verse to remember.

At the end of verse 10, we see a plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand.

A carpenter's tool to tell if the wall was level.

In Chapter 3, we saw a stone with seven eyes, depicting the Messiah...

Here, after telling the reader the measure of spiritual success is not by might or by power, he measures the work up against the Stone.

Does it level up with Jesus?

Is the ministry glorifying Jesus? Is He being preached from the pulpit? Is Jesus being worshipped?

Is His love and the fruit that comes from love being displayed?

Is God's Grace magnified?

The plumb line is held up to the Name and Nature of Jesus.

This is all we should be measuring our lives against... we should avoid comparison with others altogether... Comparison is the thief of joy... but Jesus is the only standard to look to.

Look now at verse 11...

11 Then I answered and said to him, "What *are* these two olive trees — at the right of the lampstand and at its left?" **12** And I further answered and said to him, "What *are these* two olive branches that *drip* into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden *oil* drains?"

13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these *are*?"

And I said, "No, my lord."

14 So he said, "These *are* the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

Zechariah understood the encouragement given to Zerubbabel, but he did not see how it connected to the vision of the olive trees and the lampstand.

So, he asks, and is given this explanation.

There are two anointed ones, which we have seen to be Joshua the High Priest and Zerubbabel the Governor.

There were only two olive branches from the trees, probably one branch from each tree.

Some believe the trees themselves represent the offices of priest and king in Israel.

God explains here that He has a special work for these two anointed ones.

They would be used together to accomplish God's work.

This is another theme we see in God's Word... He often calls two people to work together.

Moses and Aaron, Joshua and Caleb, Elijah and Elisha, Peter and John, Paul and Barnabas, Priscilla and Aquila.

I like that last one, because most of the time when people refer to me, they say, "Gary and Jess."

But God typically raises two to work together... I look for this in our own ministry... I see a future here with two being called together after the days of "Gary and Jess."

In the last days, God promises to raise two more witnesses, who will preach the Gospel to the entire world before Jesus returns as King.

They are even referred to in similar imagery...

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

The two anointed ones in Zechariah's day would be given the Holy Spirit, a continual supply.

The oil must come out of the trees.

All real ministry, ministry that brings Glory to God, gives ourselves away.

And listen, it does not matter how much you have to give away.

Some have more oil than others, and that is okay...

What God is looking at is whether we are faithful with what we have.

Look now at chapter 5 verse 1...

Vision of the Flying Scroll

5:1 Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll.

2 And he said to me, "What do you see?"
So I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length *is* twenty cubits and its width ten cubits."

3 Then he said to me, "This *is* the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief shall be expelled,' according *to* this side of *the scroll*; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,' according *to* that side of it."

4 "I will send out *the curse*," says the LORD of hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief
And the house of the one who swears falsely by My name.
It shall remain in the midst of his house
And consume it, with its timber and stones."

One childhood memory that sticks with me is being at the beach and seeing those planes fly by with banners on the back.

Well, Zechariah sees something similar, but without the plane pulling it.

This flying scroll would be 30 feet long and 15 feet wide, flying across the sky.

The advertisement was God's judgment.

God judges the thieves and perjurers.

The Jews were taking what did not belong to them and lying about it.

Here God's judgment is printed out, and there for all to see.

His judgment would come swiftly, and it would enter their homes, cursing their lives.

Another vision will come now, verse 5...

Vision of the Woman in a Basket

5 Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, "Lift your eyes now, and see what this *is* that goes forth."

6 So I asked, "What *is* it?" And he said, "It *is* a basket that is going forth."

He also said, "This *is* their resemblance throughout the earth: **7** Here *is* a lead disc lifted up, and this *is* a woman sitting inside the basket"; **8** then he said, "This *is* Wickedness!" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.

Here in Zechariah's seventh vision, he sees a woman sitting in a basket.

The Hebrew word "Ephah" means "basket". This would be a larger basket.

An evil woman was sitting inside the basket.

Her name is "Wickedness."

She wants to get out of the basket to spread her influence on the people.

And as she is about to indulge in her sin and rebellion, the angel acts quickly and shoves her back down, and seals her in with a heavy lead lid.

God wanted Israel to be a spiritual people, not a sinful people.

God closed the lid on this lady because He was trying to rid the returning Jews of the corruption of Babylon.

Verse 9...

9 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there *were* two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.

10 So I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?"

11 And he said to me, "To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, *the basket* will be set there on its base."

It is clear here that God was not just trying to get the Jews back into their Land, but He was trying to remove any influence Babylon had over them.

Now, Babylon served as a great lesson for the Jews; never again did they return to idolatry as a people.

They were cured of this... but their time in Babylon taught them something else that is still with them to this day.

When they went into Babylon, they were mostly agrarian people, farmers, and herders.

But their time in Babylon taught them about banking, finance, and trade.

The Jews became world-renowned businessmen and women.

Now, there is nothing wrong with making a living, but a lifelong preoccupation with money is just another form of idolatry.

The Jews came back from Babylon influenced by greed, exploitation, and deceit, and their lives became consumed with material wealth.

We see here God is not pleased...

This was a sin that stuck with them.

We see here the only place in scripture where angels are depicted as women, and there is a debate on whether these are good angels or fallen demonic angels.

We see that they have the wings of a stork, which in the Law of Moses was an unclean animal.

So, it is easy to see that these are demonic angels rescuing the woman named Wickedness and taking her back to Babylon.

But, before you get upset with me about saying the only women angels in the Bible were bad, I did see that the Hebrew word for “Stork” could mean “Faithful One.”

So, this could imply that good angels were dispatched to banish this wicked woman’s influence.

No need to debate this and lose the bigger picture; God did not want the influence of Babylon in Jerusalem any longer.

I imagine He feels the same way about the wickedness we allow in our lives.

He wants it gone, through repentance and turning to Him.

God desires to sanctify and justify us.

In Jesus, we are forgiven of our life's sins, and we are given righteousness through His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection.

This should purify our hearts and allow God to cut out the evil influences in our lives, as His Spirit indwells us.

As He brought the Jews out of Babylon, He takes us out of this fallen world.

His desire is for us to drive evil from our lives.

Now, these verses also have implications for eschatology, and we will look more into that when we study Babylon in Revelation in the months to come.

There has been a battle between Babylon and Jerusalem throughout the Old Testament, and it will culminate in the last days.

Commercial Babylon and Religious Babylon will be destroyed and judged once and for all.

God carries the woman back to Shinar, or Babylon, here, in preparation for the final battle between Good and Evil.

Let's finish with chapter 6 tonight...

Looking at verse 1 now...

Vision of the Four Chariots

6:1 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. **2** With the first chariot *were* red horses, with the second chariot black horses, **3** with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot dappled horses — strong *steeds*.

Now, these two mountains are typically identified as the two prominent mountains on the eastern side of Jerusalem.

The Mount of Olives and the Temple Mount.

We see four chariots coming between them, which would be in the Kidron Valley or the Valley of Jehoshaphat, meaning Jehovah is Judge.

It is here God states through the prophet Joel,
Joel 3:2 I will also gather all nations,
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
And I will enter into judgment with them there
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,
Whom they have scattered among the nations;
They have also divided up My land.

So, the last battle will stretch from Jerusalem to the Valley of Megiddo.

The two mountains here appear bronze-colored.

That is typically the symbol for judgment in Scripture.

Because bronze could withstand high heat, it was used to in the altar and other places where fire would burn at the Temple for sacrifice.

This connected bronze with God's fire and judgment of sin.

And here in this eighth vision, we see a completed picture.

The first chapter's vision depicted four horses dispatched to every corner of the world, who reported back that everyone was resting and at ease.

They were oblivious to their rebellion against a Holy God. Their hearts were hard and selfish.

And here, in the final vision, we see four groups of horses, but now we see chariots of war behind them.

The former horses were surveyors, assessing the sin, and here they are sent to judge the sin.

In the book of Revelation, John will see similar horsemen, often referred to as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

In Revelation chapter 6, John will see these horsemen again 600 years later.

The white one will be ridden by the Antichrist, bringing a false peace.

He will see a red horse of war, the black horse of famine, and the pale or dappled horse of death.

And here Zechariah seems to see the same horses that will be sent out in the last days to execute God's judgment on this rebellious world.

Look at verse 4 now...

4 Then I answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What *are* these, my lord?"

5 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. **6** 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." **7** 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." So they walked to and fro throughout the earth. **8** 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."

It is clear in God's Word that the Holy Spirit can be grieved over sin.

It is interesting here that after sin is judged, and God's Holiness has been vindicated, the Holy Spirit finds rest.

Verse 9...

The Command to Crown Joshua

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.

So, the dreams of Zechariah are ended here, and the prophet must become a doer of God's Word now, not just a hearer.

Three men have gold and silver, for which the prophet must take and make into a crown for the High Priest.

This crown would carry symbolism, actually pointing much further into history, to the Priest-King Jesus.

I am sure the priest Joshua was not bummed to wear it in his day, but the symbolism went further than his position.

And for centuries, the Jews would wait for their Messiah, this Jewish Priestly King.

He was promised through David's lineage, and He would one day rule over Israel.

He would establish God's everlasting Kingdom and be the true King of the world.

When Jesus came at His first advent, the Jews missed Him because they were so proud and self-righteous.

Zechariah here makes this crown, pointing the Jews to the moment when the Promised Messiah would come again.

They should have known the time of their visitation, but they missed it, and now we wait for His Revelation to the world once again, as the King of kings.

Look here at these final verses in chapter 6, starting in verse 12...

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 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."

This is clearly Messianic here.

The prophet states, "Behold the Man," which were exactly the words Pilate used to introduce Jesus of Nazareth to the mob who wanted Him dead.

Their Messiah stood before them, the Suffering Servant spoken of by the prophet Isaiah.

And Zechariah uses the same introduction to the Messiah, but looks even further to Him as the Conquering King.

He is called the Branch, which was the Branch, the offspring, or offshoot of David; this was another term for the Messiah.

The Man whose name is the Branch, depicting Jesus's humanity.

The Messiah will be both a Man and God.

From His place, He will branch out...

Isaiah wrote...

Isa 53:2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground.

And Jesus came at a time when the world was spiritually dry.

He blossomed as the only sinless human, as His roots were connected to God.

Listen, we live in an evil day as well, but we too can shine as long as we are connected to our God.

We see here that He will build the Temple of the Lord.

This was Zerubbabel's job in his day, and he completed it.

The second Temple was established, and Herod the Great would later enlarge it...

But that Temple was destroyed, we saw stones from it uncovered on our last trip to Israel in January.

But a third Temple will be built in the last days, and the Jews are so ready to do this...

At the midpoint of the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist will defile the Temple, calling himself god.

So, a third Temple will come... And on our last trip, we walked through the Temple Institute, and they showed us all the utensils and other artifacts needed to operate the Temple are ready...

They showed us a movie at the end of the tour explaining how the Jews believe it is now the time to do it.

We were literally seeing prophecy fulfilled before our eyes.

But with all that excitement, none of these Temples were built by the Messiah.

We see here that the Carpenter from Nazareth will build a final one, and I hope to be on that crew when it happens.

Remember our study of Ezekiel? The measurements and schematics were all there in chapters 40-48.

Jesus will build it, and it will stand for 1000 years, and this will be the center of the world's worship in His Glorious Kingdom.

He will build it, and be its main attraction.

The Priestly King will sit on His throne and bear the Glory of God.

The crown made by Zechariah was in use until Jesus's day, but it was lost in the Roman destruction of the Temple in AD 70.

Some believe Jesus could wear the very crown that was lost when He returns.

Verse 15 is where I hope to be on the crew for the final Temple, because Gentile believers are brought in from all over the world.

Even more, I want to be part of the work Jesus is doing today.

We are all invited into the work of building His Church...

Jesus has been building His Temple for the last 2000 years, which is us, His Church...

You are the Temple of the Holy God today...

If He can put up with us for that long... this physical Temple should be a breeze for Him.

I think it is important to remember that no contribution is too small.

God works through the little we have...

Don't despise the days of small things... and remember what we are doing here is not by our own power and might, but by His Spirit.

Let's pray...