



Jesus: The Name Above All Names
Zechariah 6:9-15
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Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him
who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

The words of this wonderful hymn were penned by Matthew Bridges in 1852. He must have been Reading in Revelation chapter 5 when he wrote it. But then again, maybe it was actually Zechariah 6! For as surprised as we are to see a Lamb upon a throne in the Book of Revelation, the words of Zechariah were equally shocking when he spoke of a time when a priest would reign as king on the throne of God's perfect kingdom. This is the message of Zechariah 6:9-15.

Zechariah 6 Completes the Series of 8 Visions

Zechariah received 8 dramatic visions in a single night! The final vision (Zechariah 6:1-8) re-visits the theme of the first vision, bringing the whole series of visions full circle. Vision #1 was all about horses patrolling the earth – a symbolic declaration of the sovereignty of God actively at work behind the scenes through the course of human history. Vision #8 pictures horses and chariots also patrolling the earth. Once again we have a picture of the sovereign power of God at work in human history, bringing His perfect will to pass. This is the larger context for everything Zechariah is revealing to God's people about their call to build. They need to know that while they are at work, day by day, laboring to build the temple of the Lord; God is also at work on a much larger scale to accomplish His victory in our broken world. This means that our labor is never in vain in the Lord. No matter how small it seems at the time or how much opposition we face.

Then Comes a Most Astonishing Message

Zechariah 6:9-15 is not a vision. It is a very specific and surprising prophetic word from God. Evidently some of the Jewish people still living in exile in Babylon had returned to Jerusalem with an offering of silver and gold. God says that this offering should be made into a crown and placed on the head of Joshua the high priest. This is followed by an amazing prophetic word: "behold the man who is called the Branch". As we have seen, "the Branch" is an Old Testament title for the Messiah, the Son of David, the hope of Israel and the Savior of the world. The person who is called the Branch is to reign as king of God's kingdom. In this scene, Joshua the high priest is being used as a symbol of something profound which is to come: a time when the priest of Israel would also reign as king. This is totally unexpected. It is something that had never ever happened before. It is this unique amazing person who will someday build the true and ultimate temple of God.

Jesus: The Name Above All Names

No one in all of history could fulfill this prophetic word, except our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus is both priest and king. It is even more intense than that! Jesus is also the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. So He is the priest who offers up the perfect merit of His own sacrifice on our behalf. He is also the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who sits upon the eternal throne of God. Amazing! So Matthew Bridges got it right: "Crown him with many crowns!" No wonder Zechariah said "Behold the man..." (6:12). This was the exact phrase that Pilate used as Jesus stood on trial before him, in a purple robe with a crown of thorns: "Behold the man." (John 19:5). Later Pilate wrote a sign for the Cross: "King of the Jews." Pilate got it 1/2 right; for Jesus is actually the sovereign King of the

whole world. To Him belong all power and authority. But Jesus is also our loving, compassionate priest who intercedes forever on our behalf. All of this is taken up in detail in the Book of Hebrews. See Hebrews chapters 7-10 where Jesus is revealed as priest and king. Note especially Hebrews 10:12-13: "But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet." To offer sacrifice is what a priest does. To sit at the right hand of God and subdue enemies is what a king does. This is Jesus, our Savior and King; the name above all names!

The point of all of this is faith and hope. If you are going to build you must keep your eyes fastened on Jesus. See Him for who He truly is. Trust Him fully. Call on His name. Serve Him with an eager heart. He is the true builder of hearts and lives. He will build His temple, the church. We get to join Him in this amazing work. Say yes to Jesus!