



**God's Prophetic Plan  
The Elimination of Evil and the  
Reign of Messiah  
Zechariah 6**

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We are in the book of Zechariah which, like the book of Revelation is considered an apocalypse. That "is a genre of revelatory literature with a narrative framework, in which a revelation is mediated by an otherworldly being to a human recipient, disclosing a transcendent reality which is both temporal, insofar as it envisages eschatological salvation, and spatial insofar as it involves another, supernatural world." (Boda 2016, 101)

So far, it has not disappointed as we have cruised through the first seven visions given to Zechariah on the evening of February 15, 519 BC. He is not asleep in fact he was told to wake up at least once so far. Zechariah is being given the opportunity to participate in a series of Zoom calls from heaven.

There is one more vision yet to go. One of the obvious things we have already seen in the visions is the encouragement being provided to Joshua and Zerubbabel as they go about serving YAHWEH. We have also seen that the visions speak to the End of the age too.



The visions are indeed prophetic with a near fulfillment, a far fulfillment, and spoilers, one which is taking place right before our eyes today.

The visions started off with the Angel of the Lord preparing other members of the divine council to utilize the most modern technology around, horses, to patrol in and around Jerusalem as well as the entire planet. His people were returning, and the overwatch was in place.

In fact, the first 5 visions have all been positive with encouragement to the leadership of the remnant who have returned to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. And the angel of the Lord has been his guide and there has been ongoing guidance and direction from the divine council and views of the unseen realm.

Yep, apocalyptic.

Encouragement flipped to judgment with the 6th vision. Also, we took a turn for the weird with the 6th vision as well. That remained for the 7th vision too.

Now we have come to the last vision for the evening. This vision will recall some of the events and players from the first vision. The vision was encouragement.

One key distinction between the first and last vision reports, however, lies in the fact that while in 1:7–17 the horses appeared only to have mounted riders, appropriate for a secretive spy mission, in 6:1–8 the horses are connected with chariots because of their mission to exact punishment on the land of the north. (Boda 2016, 356)

The visions of Zechariah have shown to the people that the Lord is with them. He is in their midst and the rebuilding efforts they have begun will be successful. If they remain obedient, then blessing are promised but sadly that was not to be the case.

God was with them and the judgment they have already seen with the exile helped to remove sin from the land. They have a new opportunity to get it right this time.

He has also promised to not only remove sin from the land, but to also once and for all remove the city of man.

By the way, if you begin to look at the events resulting in the reestablishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and events since then, you also find that these visions, talk to that as well. The visions of Zechariah are also prophetic of the return of the nation in unbelief prior to the beginning of the Day of the Lord.

If you examine the recent history of Israel, recent being since 1948, we see the same things happening as also took place during the time of Zechariah.

In 1948, the nation came back into existence and once again, as we had seen in Zechariah 1, the Lord was patrolling around the nation and the people. Prior to the Declaration of Independence, the nations were doing their level best to prevent the rebuilding of Israel or allowing for there to be a Jewish homeland. However, the surrounding nations were still carefree and tried to prevent the return.

Zechariah 1:14–15

“So the angel who was speaking with me said to me, “Proclaim, saying, ‘This is what the LORD of armies says: “I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion. But I am very angry with the nations who are carefree; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster.”” (NASB 2020)

The Lord intended for His people to be back in the land and indeed, they began to return. Just as they did from Babylon in the time of Zechariah.



As they returned and began to rebuild, the nations around them convinced the Persian Empire to put a halt on those activities. The same took place in the run up to the declaration of Independence in 1948 with multiple attempts to stop resulting in war.

Those nations surrounding Israel began to take action to try and prevent the establishment of the nation. They failed. However, those nations that said they would help Israel, didn't.

The Lord though was back and on patrol. As they did, the craftsmen showed up and the nations that were carefree were defeated firmly establishing the nation. But the war that began then, has not ended yet. In fact, this is phase one.

The next date to consider is 1967, why? You see, the nation going to exile was not a once and done event.

The events of Zechariah that the visions talked to, are indeed taking place again, due to the sin of Israel and even though they had a reboot, they continued in sin and the aspect of another promise came into play.

Today, the reboot is taking place again. "The first five of Zechariah's night visions reveal that the long absence of the Lord is almost over, because the Lord is returning to dwell in the midst of his people." (Stead 2015, 83)

There is some background to consider as we also see the bigger picture here in the visions of Zechariah pointing to the return of the nation that we see happening today. It deals with a curse in Leviticus 26 that and a prophecy of punishment in Ezekiel.

I want you to notice a phrase here in Leviticus 26 in the middle of the warnings to the nation.

Leviticus 26:14–18

"However, if you do not listen to me or obey all these commands, and if you break my covenant by rejecting my decrees, treating my regulations with contempt, and refusing to obey my commands, I will punish you. I will bring sudden terrors upon you—wasting diseases and burning fevers that will cause your eyes to fail and your life to ebb away. You will plant your crops in vain because your enemies will eat them. I will turn against you, and you will be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you will rule over you, and you will run even when no one is chasing you! **"And if, in spite of all this, you still disobey me, I will punish you seven times over for your sins."** (NLT)

As the nation has returned from Babylon, and at present is only a remnant, they have a unique opportunity at hand to get it right this time. If they don't, then they are looking at having what just took place take place again, but x7. YAHWEH is making a serious point here in Leviticus that must be looked at. Warning two.

Leviticus 26:21

"If even then you remain hostile toward me and refuse to obey me, **I will inflict disaster on you seven times over for your sins.**" (NLT)

Then three and four.

Leviticus 26:23–24

"And if you fail to learn the lesson and continue your hostility toward me, then I myself will be hostile toward you. **I will personally strike you with calamity seven times over for your sins.**" (NLT)



Leviticus 26:27–28

“If in spite of all this you still refuse to listen and still remain hostile toward me, then I will give full vent to my hostility. **I myself will punish you seven times over for your sins.**” (NLT)

Four times this warning is issued. “Four representing the complete created order.” (Manser 2009)

The warning states judgement will be multiplied seven times.

“Seven is used often in the Bible to symbolize perfection, fullness, abundance, rest, and completion.” (Youngblood, et al. 1995) And what is being warned?

Leviticus 26:31–33

“I will make your cities desolate and destroy your places of pagan worship. I will take no pleasure in your offerings that should be a pleasing aroma to me. Yes, I myself will devastate your land, and your enemies who come to occupy it will be appalled at what they see. I will scatter you among the nations and bring out my sword against you. Your land will become desolate, and your cities will lie in ruins.” (NLT)

Ok, so a warning was issued. Did Israel pay attention? No. This took place at the hands of Babylon.

Round one.

2 Chronicles 36:15–21

“The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy. Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels. He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.” (ESV)

Due to their idolatry and sin, the nation went into exile and remained there for 70 years. Here in Zechariah, they are back, but not everyone. The Temple is being rebuilt but the city wall construction has not yet begun.

And the 70 years was actually x2. There is 70 years for the servitude of the nation, and there is also 70 for the city of Jerusalem and one starts earlier than the other.

There is also another prophecy to look at in Ezekiel, we see the following prophecy:

Ezekiel 4:1–6

“God said, “Mortal man, get a brick, put it in front of you, and scratch lines on it to represent the city of Jerusalem. Then, to represent a siege, put trenches, earthworks, camps, and battering rams all round it. Take an iron pan and set it up like a wall between you and the city. Face the city. It is under siege, and you are the one besieging it. This will be a sign to the nation of Israel. Then lie down on your left side, and I will place on you the guilt of the nation of Israel. For 390 days you will stay there and suffer because of their guilt. I have sentenced you to one day for each year their punishment will last. When you finish that, turn over on your right side and suffer for the guilt of Judah for forty days—one day for each year of their punishment.” (GNB)



The total number of punishment years outlined is 430 years.

The servitude of the nation was to be for 70 years per Jeremiah 29:10. But there is another 70-year term running as well, Jeremiah 29:11 speaks of 70 years of desolations.

So, consider this, 430 years of punishment outlined, and 70 years has run leaving 360 years remaining and out there somewhere.

But another judgment of seventy years' "desolations" was decreed in Zedekiah's reign, because of continued disobedience and rebellion. As an interval of seventeen years elapsed between the date of the servitude and the epoch of the "desolations," so by seventeen years the second period overlapped the first. The servitude ended with the decree of Cyrus. The desolations continued till the second year of Darius Hystaspes. (Anderson 2004, 55) Or did they continue longer?

Where we are in Zechariah, we are still dealing with the decree of Cyrus.

With the initial attack of Jerusalem by Babylon, the Lord was working to get the people attention. The events were as follows:

- 606 BC Servitude yet still a nation. Some hostages taken (Daniel and others). First 70-year period begins. 3rd year of Jehoiakim. Jerusalem captured by Babylon.
- 598 BC Captivity. All the elites taken from Jerusalem including Ezekiel.
- 589 BC Jerusalem under siege.
- 587 BC Fall of Jerusalem and desolation begins. Second 70-year period begins.

Let's break this down just a bit more. Again, remember we are talking about the application of these visions as prophecy for near, and now far, and the current day. And we already know they point to the end of the Tribulation.

But back to the 360 years still hanging out there. The remnant has an opportunity, but they will fail and the x7 will be applied. The 70 weeks of Daniel outline the period leading up to the cutting off of Messiah as well as the final 7-year period (the Tribulation) of the nation.

Daniel has predicted that there will be an indeterminate period of time between the 69th week and the cutting off of Messiah and the beginning of the 70th week marked by the 7-year peace deal with the Beast (Daniel 9:26-27).

So, again, the 360 years. Here is a **possible explanation** for this.

Back to the remaining 360 years. Let's see, if the remaining 360 years are multiplied 7 times.

- $7 \times 360 = 2520$  years

In the Bible, a year, per the work done by Sir Robert Anderson, are 360-day years.

So, let's convert to our calendar of 365.25-day years = 2483 years, 9 months and 21 days

- 606 BC – Daniel and others become vassal princes in Babylon. Begin the servitude of 70 years for the nation.
- 603 BC – Jehoiakim rebels against Nebuchadnezzar, the third year of Jehoiakim 1 Nisan 606 – 1 Nisan 605.
- 598 BC – Nation into captivity (Ezekiel) leaving only inhabitants of Jerusalem.



- Jeremiah warns those in Jerusalem to stop rebelling and Ezekiel warns those in captivity that they are there for the interim.

But no one listened and the desolations began with the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple in 587 BC.

So a possible conjecture is as follows.

The following are from Chuck Missler's Notes on the Book of Ezekiel, Koinonia House, Inc. 2004.

### **Servitude of the Nation**

If one starts with the first siege of Nebuchadnezzar, which began the "Servitude of the Nation" in 606 B.C., the seventy years of servitude ended in 537 B.C. If July 23, 537 B.C. was the release from servitude, then:

$-537 \text{ y } 7 \text{ m } 23\text{d} + 1 \text{ (no year "0")} + 2483 \text{ y } 9\text{m } 21\text{d} = \text{May } 14, 1948$

On May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion, citing the book of Ezekiel as his authority, proclaimed Israel as the new Jewish homeland. The nation Israel was reestablished on the very completion of this interval from the end of the "Servitude of the Nation" under Babylon.

### **Desolations of Jerusalem**

In 587 BC, Jerusalem was "taken on the 9th day of the 4th month, and burnt on the 7th day of the 5th month in the 11th year of Zedekiah, and the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar." (Anderson 2004, 242)

If one starts with the third siege of Nebuchadnezzar, which began the "Desolations of Jerusalem" in 587 B.C., the seventy years of desolations ended in 518 B.C. With August 16, 518 B.C. as the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, then

$-518 \text{ y } 8 \text{ m } 16\text{d} + 1 \text{ (no year "0")} + 2483 \text{ y } 9\text{m } 21\text{d} = \text{June } 7, 1967$

On the morning of June 6, after heavy bombing from the air, the Mount of Olives ridge was in Israeli hands by 9:30 a.m. Troops of the 55th Brigade entered the Old City through the Lions' Gate, and took the city with little resistance. Two companies of the 16th Brigade entered the city through the Dung Gate and liberated the Jewish Quarter. At 11 a.m., the Jordanian military commander, Anwar el-Hattib, surrendered. "June 7th, beginning at sundown on the 6th saw Israel restored to Jerusalem." (Rubinstein 2011, 164)

Jerusalem had been under Gentile rule ever since the time of Nebuchadnezzar in the 6th century, B.C. Even after the modern State of Israel was proclaimed, Jerusalem remained largely in Arab hands...It was only after the Six-Day War in 1967, when Jerusalem was captured by Israeli troops, that the capital city came into Jewish control. This was the first time, since 597 BC, that Jerusalem was under Jewish jurisdiction. (Tan 1996, 628-629)

But is Israel truly in control of the Temple mount? Or do the desolations continue?

But what if we take the Decree of Artaxerxes in Ezra 7 (457 BC) as the end of the desolations? Here is where you can go crazy with some of this.

Well let's see, Ezra arrives in Jerusalem in 457 BC and Nehemiah followed in 445 BC.

$-445 \text{ y } 3\text{m } 14 \text{ d} + 1 + 2483\text{y } 9\text{m } 21\text{d} = 2040 \text{ January } 5$



Enough of prophecy go round. But if you take an independent study of end times prophecy, be prepared for some stuff like that. Everyone wants to set dates. But we can't, we just are to know the general season.

What we see with the visions is prophecy of what is taking place in Israel today. The nation was reestablished in 1948. The Lord is once again riding overwatch through the land and the issue with the nations is no different than with Zechariah. Many of those nations were handled by the craftsmen.

In 1967, Jerusalem once again came under control of Jews and other than the Temple Mount, has remained under their control. The city has been measured.

As the nation is being regathered, they are in unbelief. But at a point in the future, which Zechariah will get to eventually, they will realize their need to put sin away from them individually and they will repent coming to Messiah.

As they do so Jesus returns; and the lampstand and oil begins to flow as He fills His people with the Holy Spirit.

The survivors who are the goats of the sheep and goats judgment are removed from the planet fulfilling the curse of the flying scroll and the city of man is done away with once and for all with the supernatural fallen ones being imprisoned around Babylon (Isaiah 13:19-22) and Edom (Isaiah 34:13-15).

Righteousness will be the rule of the day as Jesus rules and reigns from Jerusalem.

Zechariah 6:1–4

“Now I raised my eyes again and looked, and behold, four chariots were going out from between the two mountains; and the mountains were bronze mountains. With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot strong spotted horses. So I responded and said to the angel who was speaking with me, “What are these, my lord?” (NASB 2020)

We kick off this last vision with Zechariah seeing four chariots riding out between two mountains.

Back in chapter 1 we had four horses, Special Ops, patrolling the planet and providing overwatch for Jerusalem, but now we have the most modern weapons of war.

We are not told what two mountains, but many commentators think we are talking about Mount Zion and the Mount of Olives which would mean the chariots are rolling through the Kidron Valley.

Or possibly in the new valley created when the events of Zechariah 14:4 – 5 take place and the Mount of Olives splits in two.



## Kidron Valley



(Bolen 2012, Used with Permission)

Mountains, in the scriptures, are also a way of saying governments or nations. The chariots are doing the same as those riders, but now they are the most feared and modern military weapon of the day, and they are out rolling among the nations. What we see here though is that the mountains are of bronze. “Bronze fittingly depicts judgment as in the bronze altar and the bronze serpent (cf. later here, “satisfied my wrath,” v. 8).” (Rosscup 2008, 1431)

The chariots show that this is not a peace mission. This is not spying or guarding, this is open warfare. Weapons of war, with strong references of judgment, coming from the Kidron Valley, the exact location we will see later here in Zechariah 14:4 that is the landing spot of Messiah when He returns in power and crushes the armies of the world in the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:11 – 21 ).

What are the details about these chariots?

Zechariah 6:2–4

“With the first chariot were red horses, with the second chariot black horses, with the third chariot white horses, and with the fourth chariot strong spotted horses. So I responded and said to the angel who was speaking with me, “What are these, my lord?”” (NASB 2020)

Back in chapter 1, the colors of the horses was not an issue. That may not be the case here though. But now, there is something about these horses we may have seen elsewhere.

We have the same colors in the four horsemen of the Apocalypse in Revelation 6. I don’t think it is accidental that Zechariah had a vision of four chariots and John of four horsemen. They are probably referring to the same events. (McGee 1997, 931)

Let’s take a look at Revelation 6:1 – 8.

Revelation 6:1–8

“Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, “Come!” And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword. When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three





quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!" When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth." (ESV)

We covered the details of these four horses in our Revelation study. The red horse is war. The black horse is famine. The spotted horse is a dapple grey or pale horse which is death showing the global effects of unrestricted modern warfare. The white horse though is not the same as the white horse in Revelation. There the white horse was the antichrist who would bring a false peace to the world. Here, white is for victory.

Zechariah has learned by now though not to take the appearances for granted so he asks about what he is seeing.

Zechariah 6:5–8

"The angel replied to me, "These are the four spirits of heaven, going out after taking their stand before the Lord of all the earth, with one of which the black horses are going out to the north country; and the white ones are to go out after them, while the spotted ones are to go out to the south country." When the strong ones went out, they were eager to go to patrol the earth. And He said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth. Then He called out to me and spoke to me, saying, "See, those who are going to the land of the north have appeased My wrath in the land of the north." (NASB 2020)

These are members of the divine council who carry out the work of the Lord throughout the planet. "The symbolism is potent. The data gathering is complete and the signal has been given from the divine high command: 'Let's roll!' The heavenly army is on the move; the might of this world's empires is about to be overtaken by the omnipotent power of the Lord of hosts." (Duguid 2010, 122)

There has been a play on words going on here in the visions with a specific word being repeated several times, that is the Hebrew word for wind and spirit, רוּחַ (ruach) "breeze, breath; wind; spirit; sense, mind, intellectual frame of mind. The Holy Spirit." (Brannan 2020)

This began in Zechariah 4 where the Lord told Zerubbabel there is only one way that work for the Lord gets done, through the power of the Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6

"Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel, saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of armies." (NASB 2020)

It was the ruach in the wings of the two women who removed evil from the land. Here in Zechariah 6:5, we learn the four chariots are driven by Spirit empowered beings, ruach again, in the service of the King.

By using this word, we are seeing that it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that those works the Lord is doing are empowered and through the Holy Spirit. So where are they going after meeting with the Lord?

The black and white horse drawn chariots head off to the north. The expectation was one in each direction, but we learn two head off to the north. From the north is how Babylon would attack Israel. The Babylon of the end of the age, the city of man as called that in the book of Revelation, will be destroyed and the two chariots going north reflect the intent of the Lord to judge them once and for all. It is also the direction from which Gog and Magog and their allies come from (Ezekiel 38:6).

That is also the direction from which the armies of the Beast will come.



We see that the other chariot with the dappled colored horses, heads south while it appears the chariot with the red ones are to remain in the valley protecting His people.

This also fits well with the scenario we see at the end of the Tribulation. The armies of the Beast move in from the north and set up shop in Israel, and the King of the South moves into Israel at the same time.

At the end of the Tribulation though, all the armies of the world will have drawn into the Middle East.

Daniel 11:40

“At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through.” (ESV)

Seeing the chariots move north and south makes great sense militarily as well as leaving a group to protect Jerusalem. They are all involved in judgement, ridding the land of evil and strongly patrolling the entire planet.

“...when Zechariah heard that God’s Spirit had been set at rest in the north country and no longer needed to be at work, he knew that the preparations for the new age were now complete. Evil had been conquered. All the earth could now receive the true peace that comes only when God’s rule is acknowledged.” (Achteimer 1986, 130)

With God’s wrath appeased, we are now at the end of the Tribulation and beginning the rule and reign of Messiah.

Zechariah 6:9–10

“The word of the LORD also came to me, saying, “Take an offering from the exiles, from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah; and you shall go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah, where they have arrived from Babylon.” (NASB 2020)

Zechariah is being commanded to do a symbolic prophetic act. He is commanded to go and find three specific individuals who are recent returnees from Babylon to serve as witnesses. Once he has them and the offering each brings, they are all to go to the house of Josiah who will serve as a fourth witness.

Those who Zechariah is being instructed to go see are those who at the present, just now arriving from Babylon. Zechariah will literally be part of the welcome wagon as they pull up to Jerusalem. Odds are the delegation that Zechariah is instructed to meet are messengers who are coming to Jerusalem and bringing gifts with them for the construction of the Temple. He is to meet them and have Josiah make a crown.

These three then may have just arrived from the east possibly as a foreshadow of the magi who will also come with gifts.

Zechariah 6:11–13

“Also take silver and gold, make an ornate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Then say to him, ‘The LORD of armies says this: “Behold, there is a Man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the majesty and sit and rule on His throne. So He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.” ’” (NASB 2020)

The order this is showing up here in Zechariah is significant.



We have just finished the visions concluding with the destruction of the armies of the beast by Messiah and the wrath of God being accomplished.

Now that Messiah is here, it is time to crown Him. Those who have returned from Babylon are the center of God's plan for the future.

So, take the gift provided and turn it into a composite silver and gold crown, a really ornate one, then crown the high priest. No high priest in the OT was ever crowned king. There was King Azariah who thought he could act in the role of a priest and was struck with leprosy as a result (2 Kings 15:4 – 5).

Joshua's coronation united the priesthood with the monarchy. While there was no precedent in Scripture for a priest to be crowned as a king, the message the Lord gave to Joshua in verses 12–15 explains the reason behind this coronation. (Fries, Rummage and Gallaty 2015, 136)

As the crown is placed on the head of the high priest, the four witnesses would also be able to attest to the action taking place. This is prophetic and points to King Messiah and the Millennial Temple.

There are promises for the near term, but also for the future.

Zechariah 6:12–15

"Then say to him, 'The LORD of armies says this: "Behold, there is a Man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the LORD. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the majesty and sit and rule on His throne. So He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices." ' Now the crown will become a reminder in the temple of the LORD to Helem, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. Those who are far away will come and build the temple of the LORD." Then you will know that the LORD of armies has sent me to you. And it will take place if you completely obey the LORD your God." (NASB 2020)

The message from the Lord tells us this about the "Branch," the Messiah.

- He will build the Temple of the Lord.
- He will be King bearing royal honor.
- He will sit and rule on His throne as King and Priest.
- He will serve in both roles uniting them in peace.

Nowhere else in the Old Testament is it made so plain that the coming Davidic king will also be a priest. (Baldwin 1972, 145)

So that future generations will remember that Messiah is King and Priest, the crown will provide that reminder in the Temple.

God indeed has plans for His people, the visions have been all about that as well as the sign given in the coronation of the high priest. But the key has been and continues to be faithfulness to YAHWEH. The remnant who is returning has the opportunity now to get it right, but obedience, complete obedience is required.



## Works Cited

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