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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Zechariah 6.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Zechariah 6.

Topics.

- Four chariots come out from between two mountains of bronze.
- The four horses are going out to the four winds of heaven.
- The black, white and dappled horses go out to patrol the earth.
- Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah exiles from Babylon arrive in Jerusalem.
- Set a crown on Joshua and say, "The man whose name is the branch."
- Those who are far off will come and help build the Temple of the LORD.
- The top stone of the eternal Temple.
- The glory of the spiritual Temple God is building in Christ.

INTRODUCTION: the following introduction is quiet long, but it does help understand the the background of Zechariah, to skip the introduction scroll down to Zechariah chapter six. As Haggai encouraged the returned Jewish exiles to rebuild the Temple, Zechariah encouraged them to repent and renew their covenant with God. Such spiritual renewal would be necessary for the people to be ready to worship God once the Temple was rebuilt (about 515 B.C.).

Zechariah accused them of doing the very things their ancestors had done before the exile. He was concerned about social justice for widows, orphans, and foreigners. As the people endured opposition from the non-Jewish inhabitants of Judea, Zechariah reassured them of God's abiding comfort and care and that He would continue his covenant with Israel.

The Messianic hope was rekindled during Zechariah's ministry by the ordination of Joshua as priest and Zerubbabel as governor. From Zechariah chapter one through to the end there is a beautiful message of comfort and encouragement for the people of Israel during the era of Zechariah and for those who are rebuilding the temporal Temple of God, but as the visions progress through the chapters the focus slowly shifts from the era of Zechariah and transcends time to a future age where God is building an eternal Temple in the Lord Jesus Christ. The visions then progress to Jesus returning in glory and climax's in the final chapter with Christ reigning from Jerusalem as King over the entire earth and ends with the promise that the Lord would establish his rule over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9).

The historical background: twenty years after untied Israel returned from their seventy years in captivity to Babylon, the Temple was still a blackened ruin and the discouraged people did not see how it could be restored. At this critical moment God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the Jews to rebuild the Temple. The prophecies of the two men were delivered almost at the same time. Zechariah gives a series of eight symbolic night-visions, to encourage the Israelites to complete the Temple.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

Four Chariots come out from Between two Mountains of Bronze.

Zechariah 6:1-3 ----- ¹Again I (Zechariah) lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four chariots came out from between two mountains. And the mountains were mountains of bronze.²The first chariot had red horses, the second black horses, ³the third white horses, and the fourth chariot

dappled horses (grisled and bay horses in KJV)—all of them strong (all of them strong is not in the KJV).

Zechariah sees two mountains of bronze with four chariots led by four strong horses coming out between them the first chariot is led by a red horse, the second by a black horse the third by a white horse and the fourth by a dappled horse.

Bronze: (brass) contrasted with gold or silver which are pure metals so brass symbolises filthiness (i.e., corruption and wickedness).

Mountains: are a range of hills and figuratively carries the idea of promotion.

Chariot: is vehicle of war or transport.

Dappled and grisled: means spotted.

The two mountains of bronze: are symbols of uncleanness and figuratively refer to Judah and Israel.

The symbolism of the four chariots and horses are: -

1. Chariots of red horses are symbols of war and bloodshed.
2. Chariots of black horses; are symbols of death and famine which follows war.
3. Chariots of white horses; are symbol of peace and peacefulness which follows the horrors of war.
4. Chariots of dappled horses; (partly grey and partly white horses) are symbols of Israel (ten tribes) and Judah (two tribes) united as one nation again.

The four Hoses are going out to the Four Winds of Heaven.

Zechariah 6:4-5 ----- ⁴Then I (Zechariah) answered and said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these (the horses and chariots), my lord?" ⁵And the angel answered and said to me, "These are going out to the four winds of heaven, after presenting themselves before the LORD of all the earth.

Heaven: can refer to the sky and celestial planets and figuratively carries the idea of being be lofty, exalted and proud.

Four: carries the idea of sprawling and four sided as being square.

Wind: figuratively carries the idea of breath or Spirit and is a symbol of life or of anger (i.e., the wind of a storm).

The four winds of heaven: in this context refer to all of God's people, it means these horses are going to go through all the land of Israel and Judah.

After presenting themselves before the LORD of all the earth: means the LORD has purposed what these four horses are about to do, they are fulfilling God's plans.

The Black, White and Dappled Horses go out to Patrol the Earth.

Zechariah 6:6-8 ----- ⁶The chariot with the black horses goes toward the north country, the white ones go after them, and the dappled ones go toward the south country." ⁷When the strong horses came out, they were impatient to go and patrol the earth. And he said, "Go, patrol the earth." So they patrolled the earth. ⁸Then he cried to me, "Behold, those who go toward the north country have set my Spirit at rest in the north country."

The interpretation of the vision: prior to this vision of Zechariah there had been enormous wars, battles, bloodshed and famines in Jerusalem, Judah, the land of Israel and the surrounding nations.

The two mountains: the two mountains are a symbol of the divided nation of Israel and Judah who had both turned to idols, pagan gods and gross sin, they are pictured as mountains of brass because God in His judgment on Judah and Israel used Assyria and Babylon to judge and punish the rebellious and stubborn people of both nations.

The red and black horses: the red and black horses are a symbol of war, prior to this vision the mighty armies of Assyria went out and invaded Israel in the North (the ten tribes called the Northern Kingdom) and the powerful armies of Babylon went out and attacked the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Judah (the two tribes called the Southern Kingdom), there was enormous bloodshed in these battles and Babylon besiege Jerusalem and gained the victory by bringing the population to starvation. The people of Jerusalem and Judah were taken captive into Babylon for seventy years.

Babylon later conquered Assyria so both Israel and Judah were under Babylonian rule for seventy years. During this time God like a master potter moulded the two nations of Judah and Israel together as one people and one nation. At the end of the seventy years God used Cyrus King of Media Persia, who the LORD called his anointed shepherd (Isaiah 45:1) to conquer Babylon. Cyrus gave the people of Israel and Judah written permission to return to their beloved city and rebuild the Temple of God (Isaiah 45:1-6, 14, 28).

They have set my Spirit at rest in the North Country: the battle is over and Israel is back in their beloved city, the four horses are impatient to go out and see what is happening amongst the surrounding nations. This is why they are pictured as going out from the two mountains, (Israel and Judah). The horses want to know if any nation is plotting to invade Israel. So God sends them out to see what the governments of the surrounding nations are planning. The horses come back with a good report, Assyria and Babylon have achieved their purpose Israel and Judah have been judged for their gross sins and are now united again worshipping the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob so God's Spirit is at peace (which also means the land is at peace).

The white horses: Israel and Judah have returned to Jerusalem and are about to rebuild the Temple of God, the white horses are a symbol that the surrounding nations are at peace, no nation is plotting to invade or attack Israel so they can continue with the work of the LORD and finish the Temple.

The dappled horses: (partly grey and partly white horses) Israel was called to be one nation under God, but they divided into two tribes called Judah (the Southern Kingdom), and ten tribes called Israel (the Northern Kingdom). They are pictured as dappled horses (partly grey and partly white horses) because now the two nations have come together as one united nations under God with the population made up of a mixture of people from all twelve tribes.

Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah exiles from Babylon arrived in Jerusalem.

Zechariah 6:9-10 ----- ⁹And the word of the LORD came to me (Zechariah):¹⁰"Take from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon, and go the same day to the house of Josiah, the son of Zephaniah.

- Heldai is the name of two Israelites it carries the idea of worldliness.
- Tobijah is an Israelite, the name means, Goodness of Jehovah.
- Jedaiah was an Israelite, the name means, Jah has known.
- Josiah (the son of Zephaniah) the name means Jehovah supports.

Heldai Tobijah and Jedaiah have arrived in Jerusalem from Babylon.

Set a Crown on Joshua and say, "The Man whose Name is the Branch."

Zechariah 6:11-13 ---- ¹¹Take from them (Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah) (v9) silver and gold, and make a crown, and set it on the head of Joshua, the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.¹²And say to him, "Thus

says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. ¹³It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

Joshua: from Strong's Concordance comes from the following four Hebrew words, Jehoshuä, Y^ehowshuwa, Y^ehovah and Yasha they mean: -

Jehoshuä: refers to Joshua the Jewish leader who led Israel out of the wilderness and across the River Jordan into the Promised Land.

Y^ehowshuwa: Jehovah-saved.

Y^ehovah: self-existent or eternal; Jehovah it is the Jewish national name of God.

Yasha: be free and safe it carries the idea of a saviour, deliverer and helper and of one who brings salvation and victory.

Those who are Far Off will come and Help Build the Temple of the LORD.

Zechariah 6:14-15 ----- ¹⁴And the crown shall be in the temple of the LORD as a reminder to Helem (Heldai) (v10), Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Hen the son of Zephaniah. ¹⁵"And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the LORD. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God."

Helem: from the Bible Dictionary was an ambassador, mentioned only in (Zech. 6:14), but also certainly the same person as Heldai (Zech. 6:10).

Hen: from Strong's Concordance was an Israelite, the name means, grace.

The crown: was to be kept in the Temple of the LORD to be a constant reminder to Helem (Heldai) (v10), Tobijah, Jedaiah that those who were far off (lived some distance away) would come and help to build the Temple and so they would know that it was the LORD that sent Zechariah to them.

SUMMARY: of the man whose name is, "The Branch." (Zechariah 6:12) is not saying the name of Joshua the son of Josedech is the Branch. God said, "It is the man whose name is the Branch that will build the Temple of the LORD and be crowned with royal honour." The passionate and enthusiastic Bible student becomes enormously excited at the words of Zechariah's prophecy, because the name "Branch" immediately takes the mind to the following verses: -

- In that day the *branch of the LORD* shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. (Isaiah 4:2).
- There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse (David's father), and a *branch from his roots* shall bear fruit. (Isaiah 11:1).
- Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for *David a righteous Branch*, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jer. 23:5).
- In those days and at that time I will cause a *righteous Branch to spring up for David*, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. (Jer. 33:15).

The following verses show that the Lord Jesus Christ is the righteous Branch the LORD raised up from David: -

- The angel (Gabriel) said to her (Mary), "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give him *the throne of his father David*, ³³he will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Lk 1:1-80).

- The book of the genealogy of *Jesus Christ, the son of David*, the son of Abraham. (Matthew. 1:1).
- The crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "*Hosanna to the Son of David!* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matt. 21:9).
- He (Jesus) will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the *throne of his father David*. (Luke 1:32).
- Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, *the offspring of David*, as preached in my gospel. (2 Tim. 2:8).
- I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. *I am the root and the descendant of David*, the bright morning star." (Rev. 22:16).

Zechariah's prophetic words are majestic words of comfort and encouragement for Joshua the son of Josedech and certainly apply to him when Zechariah was speaking, but once again we see the beauty and marvel of Bible prophecy, because God through Zechariah did not actually say the name of Joshua the son of Josedech is the Branch. The message of the prophecy remains free to transcend the era of Joshua and travel through history and time until they arrive at a lonely stable in a town named Bethlehem were the true Branch of Zechariah's majestic prophecy is being born.

The Temple today: the Temple God is building through the true Branch of Zechariah's prophecy is the spiritual eternal global Kingdom made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ. It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ (the Branch of Zechariah's prophecy) therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God).

The Apostle Paul said: -

- Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit (Ephes. 2:11-22).

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ (the Branch of Zechariah's prophecy) is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world. The practical application of what this means to those who belong to Christ is that all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to them. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

The top stone of the eternal Temple: echoed in Zechariah's timeless prophecy will be laid when Christ returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Glory of the Spiritual Temple God is Building in Christ.

Jews and Gentiles are being united together as one body in Christ to be a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Believing Jews and Gentiles are being prepared by the prophets and apostles teachings and by the influence of Christ and the Holy Spirit to become a majestic and glorious sacred temple in which God dwells for all eternity.

When this majestic building is completed there will be nothing so worthy of reverence since God dwells in it; so ancient since the patriarchs and prophets laboured in building it; so solid since love cements it together; so closely united and indivisible since Christ is the corner stone; so exalted since it reaches as high as heaven and to God himself; so full of wisdom since its specifications are the word of God; so full of light since the Holy Spirit dispels every dark corner; so spacious since it is spread over the whole earth; so invincible and indestructible since it is being built by God, by Christ, by the Holy Spirit and by the influence of God's eternal word; so divine since it is a living, vibrant, dynamic temple inhabited by the Holy Spirit, and so universal since all its unique stones though spread throughout the world are compacted together in Christ.

God is the master builder of this majestic and glorious temple; Christ is the corner stone; faithful believers are the proper materials; the prophets and apostles are its foundation and the Gospel and love its pillars. Christ is the door and faith is the entrance into it. It is a spiritual building and through, faith and grace this living building is growing into an eternal house fit for the most Holy God to dwell in. It's beauty and radiance will surpass all temples that have ever gone before it since it will be adorned with a vast variety of rich colour made up of Jews and Gentiles of every age, country, sex, and condition: the mightiest of kings, the most renowned lawgivers, the most profound philosophers, the most eminent scholars and all those of whom the world was not worthy have formed this building.

Peter wrote: -

- Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame (1 Pet. 2:6).

Every faithful brother and sister in Christ are represented as living stones that God is using to build this spiritual, majestic temple of eternal glory which will be manifested in splendour for all to see when: -

- The Lord himself descends from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ are raised then we who are alive are caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

End.