

Who Is This Branch?

Zechariah 6:12-13

Is the Branch the Messiah or a coming prophet?

- **It is interesting that this “hard saying” follows the vision of the four chariots. Some try to relate these four horses with the four horses of Revelation 6, but it doesn’t work. Zechariah’s four horses are four angelic beings, while the four horses of Revelation are human entities.**
- **What ties these two subjects together is the special offering that is taken to make a crown.**
- **Scholars debate this issue. Is the Branch referring to the coming Messiah or to a future/postexilic prophet?**
- **For those scholars who see it as a prophet, try to harmonize these facts by substituting the name Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah at that time, for the written name of Joshua, because they cannot accept the fact of a priest being crowned. Throughout the Old Testament, these two offices had to be kept apart.**

So why crown Joshua?

- **Taking the correct interpretation of Joshua being crowned and not the governor Zerubbabel, read the point in the last half of verse 13. "the counsel of peace will be between the two offices."**
- **What two offices? King and priest. So Joshua is actually prefiguring Jesus' coming to rule on earth as King and also to be our Priest. Only Jesus has that right to sit on a throne and to be a priest. The Book of Hebrews makes this perfectly clear. As Joshua is actually the high priest at that time, verse 14 explains why he is crowned; "as a reminder in the temple" to certain people. So since this act is ordained by the Lord, it is also a symbol of Jesus' coming reign on earth for a thousand years.**

The character of this coming Branch

- **1. He will be a priest on his throne.**
- **2. He will build the temple of the Lord.**
- **3. He will be clothed with majesty, sit and rule on His throne.**
- **4. The Gentiles will build the temple of the Lord.**
- **To read about these four acts being the fulfillment of this prophecy, read Ezekiel 39, where the Gentile armies are defeated and Israel is restored.**
- **Then read to the end of the book to see the Lord's plan for rebuilding the temple of the Millennium. This is the time that our Lord totally fulfills all prophecy noted in Scripture.**

Last thought

- **Many scholars have noted the correlation of these four qualities of the Branch with the four qualities of the Lord noted in the four gospels.**
- **For a good study, see if you can determine how each gospel writer uses a different term for the Lord.**