

Connection Group Participant Guide

June 20, 2021

Zechariah 6:9-15

Introduction

What does all this mean? The Messiah will build the temple of the LORD. Jesus, who we recognize as the Messiah, said, “Destroy this temple (i.e., the physical temple in Jerusalem which the people of Zechariah’s day were building), and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19), and John goes on to explain that Jesus was speaking of His body. Zechariah tells us that this “Branch” will be both King and Priest. They didn’t know who this would be, but you and I do, don’t we? Hundreds of years later, another man whose Hebrew name was Joshua, but we know by His Greek name Jesus, would be born God’s King and Priest. Joshua was a foreshadow of Jesus Christ, who is both God’s King and God’s Priest. In Jesus, both roles come together and indeed there is “harmony between the two”.

It begins with an incredible promise, which would have been amazingly encouraging to the Jews struggling to build their temple and their nation. Help is coming. Reinforcements are on their way. “Those who are far away will come and help.” What a wonderful reassurance! We aren’t alone, abandoned, left to fend for ourselves. Help is on the way! I think the Jews would have naturally assumed this was their fellow Jews who hadn’t yet returned to Jerusalem, but I think there is another layer. “Those who are far away” does not just refer to Jews, but to people from all nations as well. Back in chapter 2:11 God had promised, “Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and shall be my people”, and now we see this theme again. The Kingdom of God will be broad, people will respond from “many nations”, and we will be united in our love for God and His love for us.

Highlight

What was the “Branch” going to accomplish? (Zech. 6:12-13)

Explain

What is meant by the prophecy of the royal Branch (see Jer. 23:5; 33:15-16; John 19:5; Ps. 110; Heb. 7:1-3, 15-17)?

Apply

What is it like to be a child of Christ the King?

Respond in Prayer

Read through Hebrews 4:14-16 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

