The Coming King-Priest
Zechariah 6:1-15

Most people are interested in knowing the future, but these same folk have little interest in Bible prophecy; many Christians see Bible prophecy as having no significance, and nothing more than a “fad” on the grounds that it takes people’s eyes off of Jesus; yet Revelation 19:10 says, “the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” If prophecy is properly taught, it should emphasize the centrality of Jesus.

We have been examining the visions given by the Angel of the Lord to Zechariah in 520 BC; they were to encourage the people to rebuild the temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon; there was a period of 16 years where no work was done on the temple as they faced opposition from Gentile neighbors living in the land.

The first vision of four horsemen among the myrtle trees: God promises that Israel as a nation, in spite of all its enemies, will occupy her land and all anti-Semitism will one day cease (1:7-17).

The second vision of the four horns that scattered Israel: God promises that those nations that curse Israel God will curse (1:18-21).

The third vision of the man with the measuring line: God promises that Jerusalem will be rebuilt without walls (2:1-13).

The fourth vision of Joshua dressed in dirty garments: God promises to forgive Israel’s sins, save her, and protect her with “a wall of fire” (3:1-10).

The fifth vision of the lampstand and the olive trees: God promises by His Spirit that Israel will be the light of the world and bring the Gentile nations to the Messiah (4:1-14).
The sixth vision of the flying scroll: God promises to judge the sins of Israel and the nations by the truth of His Word (5:1-4).

The seventh vision of the woman in the basket: God promises to put an end to all false religion (5:5-11).

Finally, the eighth vision is of four chariots followed by the crowning of Messiah as both King and Priest (6:1-15).

**The Condemnation of the Nations (6:1-8)**

**The sign of the four chariots (6:1-3)...** The chariots are war chariots and they come out from between the two bronze mountains; bronze is a symbol of strength and speaks of judgment (Revelation 1:15); the two mountains are Mount Zion and the Mount of Olives; this means the chariots are coming down the Kidron Valley on the east side of Jerusalem; it was once called the Valley of Jehoshaphat, meaning “Jehovah will judge” (Joel 3:1-2).

Both Muslim and Jewish teachings state there will be a judgment of the nations in that valley; the judgment will take place after Israel is back in her land and after Christ returns to earth but before He sets up His Millennial Kingdom; when Christ returns He comes to the Mount of Olives (14:4).

There are four multicolored horses driving the chariots: red, black, white, and dapple (vvs.1-3); in Revelation 6:1-8 you meet the four horsemen; the order of the horses is different: white (conquest and peace), red (war), black (famine) and pale or dapple (death).

**The significance of the four chariots (6:4-5)...** The four horses pulling the four war chariots are identified as “four spirits (ruwach) of heaven,” or four winds of heaven; the chariots are driven in all directions by angelic power.

The black and white horses travel north; Israel’s greatest enemies attack from the north; the dappled horse travels south perhaps referring to Egypt; judgment is coming to the nations that held Israel captive (see Matthew 25: 42-46).
The satisfaction of God about the two chariots that went north (6:8)... Once the enemies of the north have been defeated there is relief and satisfaction; it brought rest to God’s Spirit.

The surveyance of all nations by the four chariots (6:7)... Once judgment came to the north and south they all come together with the red horse and “walk to and fro throughout the earth” as judgment comes to all of Israel’s ancient enemies.

The significance for our nation concerning the four chariots... Increasingly our nation has become more supportive of Arab Muslims in the Middle East than of Israel; these four chariots are presently scoping the earth; they will not stop until the judgment of the nations after Christ returns; I do not want to invoke fear, but sound a warning that God will not tolerate any nation mistreating His covenant people Israel; our God is “the LORD of all the earth” (6:5b) and that includes the United States of America.

We are a proud nation blessed of God; once we were very secure because we are located between two vast oceans, but modern technology has made us less secure; all great world powers have fallen and so could we.

God’s judgments are not just for nations as represented by politicians, kings, world leaders who will be judged for their treatment of Israel in the Valley of Jehosaphat; rather, everyone who rebukes Israel and refuses to name Jesus as Lord will be ultimately be judged.

In the vision of the four chariots: God is the defender of Israel; He is sending His chariots to and fro: the red horse of war, the black horse of famine, the white horse of conquest, the dappled horse of death.

The Coronation of the Messiah (6:9-14)

The contribution of silver and gold from King Darius(6:9-10)... After God brings all nations to the Valley of Jehosaphat for judgment, next comes a prophetic Messianic drama; Zechariah is to receive gifts of silver and gold from
men who had arrived from Babylon; it came from King Darius of Persia to be used in building the temple.

The crowning of Joshua (6:11,14)... Zechariah was to use some of the silver and gold to make a crown for Joshua; after Joshua wore a crown it was to be placed in the completed temple as a reminder of the coming BRANCH who will be both King and Priest (6:14); Joshua becomes a type of Christ who is identified as BRANCH (3:8); Joshua, in wearing the crown depicts Christ as King; he already was the high priest.

The Old Testament offices of priest and king were always separate; King Uzziah of Judah went to war against the Philistines, but first entered the temple to burn incense to the Lord; he was afflicted with leprosy on his forehead; the king could not play the role of priest (2 Chronicles 26).

Before the Levitical priesthood was established there was a king-priest in Salm named Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1); he was a type of Christ; only Jesus is to be king and priest (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16; Hebrews 2:17; 7:25).

The coming BRANCH (6:12a; see John 19:5)... The term BRANCH is a reference to His humanity; He comes from the line of David (2 Samuel 7:16).

The characteristics of the BRANCH (6:12b-13)...

1. His place... “From His place He shall branch out...” (6:12b; see Isaiah 53:2; Luke 2:52)

2. His project... “and He shall build the temple of the LORD... (6:12c,13a; see Ezekiel 40-48)...

3. His persona... “He shall bear the glory...” (6:13b; see John 17:5)...

4. His position... “And sit and rule on His throne...” (6:13c; see 2 Samuel 7:16; Luke 1:32; Revelation 19: 11-19; Psalm 2:7-9...

5. His priesthood... “So He shall be a priest on His throne...” (6:13d; see Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:1,3;10:12-13)...
6. His plan… “And the counsel of peace shall be between them both” (6:13e)...

The Call to Obedience (6:15)

The assistance from the Gentiles in building the temple (6:15a)... There are two different temples mentioned in the text; the Millennial temple which the Lord will build (6:12) and Zerubbabel’s temple; there was opposition from the Gentiles who are referred to as “those afar” (see Ephesians 2:17): if Israel would obey God their enemy would actually help them with the construction.

The acts of disobedience to God embolden the enemy (6:15 b)... The life lesson: disobedience to God only makes matters worse.

The assurance of Christ’s return as King and Priest (6:13-14)... The good news is Jesus is coming back as King of kings and Lord of lords as well as our great High Priest (see Isaiah 2:2-4). Amen!