

ZECHARIAH 6:9-15

Bible Study

Structure of the book of Zechariah

- 1:1-6—**Introduction**—Call to Repentance
- 1:7-6:8—**Visions**—Eight Visions encouraging Israel as they rebuild the temple
- 6:9-8:23—**Teaching**—Instruction on the future role of priest and king, fasting, failure, and the future of Zion.
- 9-14—**Prophetic**—Encouragement and hope for Israel in the coming messiah.

What event was commanded to take place in Zech. 6:9-15?

- Three men, Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, have returned from Babylon and went to the house of Josiah.
- They brought gifts of silver and gold. These gifts were taken by Zechariah and made into a crown.
 - The word used for crown (atarah) is plural, but “the most logical explanation is that Zechariah was to make a crown which involved a weave of silver and gold strands, and which therefore was thought of as a multiple. There may be a connection with the vision of Revelation 9:12, where the mounted Lord is seen with ‘many diadems’ upon His head”. (Phillips, 143)
- This crown is set on the head of Joshua the high priest, and a proclamation is made concerning him, “Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from this place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord”. (Zechariah 6:12)
- The crown is to be removed from his head and placed in the temple, a reminder to the exiles and those who are far off will come and build the temple of the Lord as a testimony of the faithfulness of God.

What is the meaning of placing the crown on Joshua's head and the other actions taken?

- The meaning of this act has at least two possibilities.
 - **1. It is political**—It would be a statement establishing Joshua as both high priest and King of Judah. This would function as a formal act of rebellion establishing Judah as a sovereign nation apart from Persia.
 - **2. It is Symbolic**—An action with spiritual and prophetic significance rather than political significance.
- There are many reasons to believe this act is symbolic rather than political. One of the most compelling is the crown is removed from Joshua's head and taken up as a memorial.

What is the act symbolizing?

- Through the crowning of Joshua, God was symbolizing the union of the roles of priest and King that would be fulfilled in the coming messiah.
- The designation of the branch is a clear association with the coming messiah (Jer. 23:5-6, Isaiah 11:1-9).
- The immediate fulfillment of this prophecy was in Joshua and Zerubbabel who were the High Priest and governor (king) of Israel, who started and completed the temple.
- The ultimate fulfillment is in Jesus Christ.
 - In John 2:18-22 Jesus prophesies that the temple will be destroyed and He will raise it up in three days referring to the resurrection.
 - Jesus was also the only person able to hold the position of both King and High priest. Uzziah tried to take this role and was struck with leprosy because of it. (2 Chron. 26:16-20).
 - Jesus perfectly reconciled the role of king and priest fulfilling this prophecy (Hebrews 4:14, Rev. 17:14).