

International Bible Lessons Commentary
Zechariah 6:9-15

International Bible Lessons
Sunday, April 13, 2014

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The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, April 13, 2014**, is from **Zechariah 6:9-15**. Please Note: This commentary is the second part of a three part Bible Lesson that includes Jeremiah 23:1-6 and John 19:1-7. Please Note: some will only study John 19:1-6 or John 19:1-5.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary* below. **Study Hints for Thinking Further**, a study guide for teachers, discusses the five questions below to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion; these hints are available on the **International Bible Lessons Commentary** website. The weekly *International Bible Lesson* is posted each Saturday before the lesson is scheduled to be taught.

International Bible Lesson Commentary

Zechariah 6:9-15

(Zechariah 6:9) The word of the LORD came to me:

The word of the LORD (Yahweh or Jehovah) came to Zechariah and told him to take actions in his historical situation that would also point toward the coming of the Messiah, also called the Branch. His actions would be symbolic and only better understood when the Messiah, Jesus, finally came.

(Zechariah 6:10) Collect silver and gold from the exiles—from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah—who have arrived from Babylon; and go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah.

These three virtually unknown Jews came from Babylon after Darius had freed the Jews following seventy years of exile as determined by God as punishment for their sins. They were to take their offering of silver and gold to the governor of the Jews in Jerusalem, who would be responsible for receiving all gifts for the rebuilding of the city and the temple.

(Zechariah 6:11) Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest Joshua son of Jehozadak;

Through the prophet Zechariah, God said He wanted a crown of silver and gold that some believe were two circles fitted together to make a royal crown. The name Joshua means Savior, which is also the name of the man who led God's people into the Promised Land and the name of Jesus the Messiah. A high priest is not crowned: the symbolic action here indicates that the Messiah would

serve God as both King and Priest. Jesus rules as King and Priest, seated at the right hand of God.

(Zechariah 6:12) say to him: Thus says the LORD of hosts: Here is a man whose name is Branch: for he shall branch out in his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD.

The Jews were accustomed to symbolic actions made by the prophets. The LORD said the Branch or the Messiah would come and not only rule militarily but as Priest He would build the temple of the LORD or the Church. Jesus' rule as High Priest comes first as He builds His Church on earth. His visible rule as King on earth will happen after Jesus comes again. The Apostle Paul also wrote, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16).

(Zechariah 6:13) It is he that shall build the temple of the LORD; he shall bear royal honor, and shall sit upon his throne and rule. There shall be a priest by his throne, with peaceful understanding between the two of them.

The temple that Zerubbabel worked on was nearing completion in Jerusalem. The temple of the LORD or the Church would be built by the Messiah who has "royal honor" and who rules from His throne in heaven (see Ephesians 2:19-22 and 1 Peter 2:5). The one on the royal throne and the priest by His throne are the same person, Jesus the Messiah. *The New American Standard Bible*

translates this verse more literally: “Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.” The *King James Version* says almost the same as the NASB: “Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”

(Zechariah 6:14) And the crown shall be in the care of Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah, and Josiah son of Zephaniah, as a memorial in the temple of the LORD.

The crown was not to remain on the head of Joshua the high priest. The symbolic action indicated that the Messiah was to be crowned priest and king. The crown was taken from Joshua and placed in the rebuilt temple as a visible reminder to all that the Branch, the Messiah, would come and He would be the One to wear the crown. When Jesus the Messiah came the first time, He was crowned with a crown of thorns. Now, Jesus wears the crown of a priest and king in heaven.

(Zechariah 6:15) 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. This will happen if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Those who were far off in Zechariah's day were the Jews left in Babylon and the Jews scattered when the Kingdom of Israel fell in 722 B.C. When Jesus came and after the Holy Spirit filled the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost, Jesus began to build His Church with those who were from "far off." When Peter and Paul led the way, the Gentiles (who the Jews would have considered "far off" from being God's children) were welcomed into the Church, "the temple of the LORD." Those who accept Jesus Christ as Savior, and who expect Him to intercede for them as High Priest at the right hand of God, need to "diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God," because Jesus rules as King of the universe and He wants to reign as King of our hearts.

Question for Discussion and Thinking Further

Since this is the second of a three part lesson series, only 1 of the 5 Study Questions will be asked below.

1. Why is it important for the followers of Jesus Christ to study the Old Testament prophets even when they seem difficult to understand?

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly *International Bible Lesson*.

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