

Zechariah 6:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

Analysis

And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH—While crowning Joshua, Zechariah must declare this isn't about Joshua but about **the man whose name is THE BRANCH** (hinnēh-īsh Tsemach shēmō, הִנֵּה-אִישׁ צֶמַח שְׁמוֹ, 'Behold the man, Branch is his name'). Tsemach (צֶמַח, 'branch/sprout/shoot') appears as a messianic title in Isaiah 4:2, Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15, and Zechariah 3:8. The Branch is from David's line (Jeremiah 23:5), sprouting from Jesse's stump (Isaiah 11:1), embodying both divine and human nature.

And he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD—Ūmitachtāyw yitsmāch ūbānāh et-hēykal Yahweh (וּמִתְחַתְּיוּ וְצִמַּח וּבָנָה אֶת-הַיְכָל יְהוָה, 'and from his place he shall sprout/branch out, and he shall build the temple of the LORD'). The Branch grows organically from his place—not imported or imposed but arising from within Israel. He will build **the temple of the LORD**—not merely Zerubbabel's physical temple but the true, ultimate temple. Jesus declared, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up'—speaking of His body (John 2:19-21). Paul calls the church 'the temple of God' (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22). The Branch builds God's dwelling place: His body, His church, and ultimately the New Jerusalem where God dwells with humanity (Revelation 21:3, 22).

Historical Context

Zerubbabel was building the Second Temple (completed 516 BC), but this prophecy leaps beyond physical architecture to spiritual reality. The 'man whose name is Branch' wouldn't appear for five centuries—Jesus of Nazareth from David's line. His 'building the temple' occurred through His death, resurrection (rebuilding His body-temple in three days), and Pentecost (birthing the Spirit-indwelt church-temple). The modest Second Temple pointed beyond itself to the greater temple the Branch would build.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the title 'Branch' combine imagery of living growth with Davidic royalty?
2. In what multiple senses did Jesus 'build the temple of the LORD' (His body, the church, the New Jerusalem)?
3. How does recognizing yourself as part of Christ's temple change your sense of identity and purpose?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַר רַ	אֵלָיו	וְאָמַר רַ	כֹּה	וְאָמַר רַ	יְהוָה:	צָבָא וְ
And speak	H413	And speak	H3541	And speak	of the LORD	of hosts
H559		H559		H559	H3068	H6635
וְאָמַר רַ	הִנֵּה	אִישׁ	צֶמַח	שְׁמוֹ	וּמִתְחַתָּ יוֹ	
And speak	H2009	Behold the man	is The BRANCH	whose name		H8478
H559		H376	H6780	H8034		
וְצִמָּה	וּבְנֵה	אֶת	הַיֵּכָל			
and he shall grow up	out of his place and he shall build		the temple			
H6779	H1129	H853	H1964			
יְהוָה:						
of the LORD						
H3068						

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 3:8 (Parallel theme): Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH.

Isaiah 11:1 (Parallel theme): And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Isaiah 4:2 (References Lord): In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.

Jeremiah 33:15 (Parallel theme): In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land.

Isaiah 53:2 (Parallel theme): For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

Jeremiah 23:5 (References Lord): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Acts 17:31 (Parallel theme): Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Matthew 16:18 (Parallel theme): And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.