



ZERUBBABEL^{AND} THE PROMISE

A MESSIANIC PROPHECY

Zechariah 4:6 - 14

This is the word of YHWH unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith YHWH of hosts.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith YHWH of hosts.” This promise is the story of Zerubbabel’s life. It defines the man and his efforts in the face of insurmountable obstacles. What was asked and expected of Zerubbabel could not have been accomplished by his own power or might. Only when the Spirit of YHWH worked through Zerubbabel did the impossible become possible.

To add color and flavor to this story a little contextual background about Zerubbabel and his era is in order. At the end of Judah’s 70 years of Babylonian captivity the Persian king Cyrus allowed the Jewish people to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. The two Jewish men who led this effort were Joshua and Zerubbabel. Joshua (Old Testament version of the name Jesus) was the

high priest from the tribe of Levi and Zerubbabel was a great-great-.....grandson of king David through Solomon. The books of Nehemiah and Ezra list the prominent men and families who joined this expedition to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem. The decree of Cyrus as recorded in 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 and Ezra 1:1-2 shows the focus of this effort was to be directed towards the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Extra-Biblical evidence indicates that some Persian kings, Cyrus and Darius (son of Hystaspes) in particular, had a penchant for rebuilding religious monuments of the peoples they had conquered. King Cyrus in his proclamation states it was YHWH who directed him to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Darius also claimed he was directed by YHWH to help in the rebuilding effort. The Biblical record clearly shows the importance attached to the temple in Jerusalem. It was the one place where YHWH chose to meet with man. It was the *“holy mountain”* where He specifically chose to have His name placed.

Zerubbabel was the appointed governor (*pechah*) of Jerusalem under Cyrus, king of Persia. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, and Zechariah show that he and Joshua were the leaders in the rebuilding efforts of the 2nd temple. In Zechariah 4:6-14 (to the right) it describes Zerubbabel, by the Spirit of YHWH, *“bringing forth”* the *“headstone”*. The term *“headstone”* comes from the two Hebrew words *eben* (stone) and *roshah* (top or topmost) Literally this means top-stone or the finishing stone. In the context of Zechariah 4 this passage is describing the completing act in the temple construction. Verses 9 goes on to say that, *“the hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it.”*

The prophetic symbolism of this passage has several messianic threads worth investigating. Notice in verse 6 it states, *“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith YHWH of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain:”*

Zechariah 4:6 - 14 ⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of YHWH unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith YHWH of hosts. ⁷ Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. ⁸ Moreover the word of YHWH came unto me, saying, ⁹ The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that YHWH of hosts hath sent me unto you. ¹⁰ For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of YHWH, which run to and fro through the whole earth. ¹¹ Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? ¹² And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? ¹³ And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. ¹⁴ Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by YHWH of the whole earth.

4334 מִישׁוֹר miyshowr {mee-shore}
or מִיִּשְׁרָר miyshor {mee-shore'}

Meaning: 1) level place, uprightness
1a) level country, table-land, plain 1b)
level place 1c) uprightness

Literally speaking the location where the temple was built had to be leveled (*miyshowr*) by Zerubbabel and the people before the temple could be rebuilt. The Hebrew word *miyshowr* can be used in several different ways. The literal usage implies the idea of leveling or straightening. The symbolic usage implies uprightness and righteousness. Psalms 67:4, 143:10, and 26:8 are examples of the usage of this word in the sense of uprightness and righteousness.

Prophetically, this passage may point to the messianic prophecy of Isaiah 40:1-9 and “*the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of YHWH, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made (miyshowr) straight, and the rough places plain:*” The following passages also have threads of this same messianic theme. They describe a time when the crooked will be made (*miyshowr*) straight. A time when a righteous “priest” will walk in peace and uprightness (*miyshowr*).

Malachi 2:6-7 ⁶ *The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and (miyshowr) equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. ⁷ For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of YHWH of hosts.*

Isaiah 42:16 ¹⁶ *And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things (miyshowr) straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.*

The New Testament continues this messianic theme and defines it by applying it to Yashua (Jesus) of Nazareth. It is He, who John the baptist describes in quoting Isaiah 40:1-9. John proclaimed the coming of the Messiah and the work He would accomplish. It was Yashua (Jesus) who made the blind to see, made the crooked straight, the lame to walk, brought the dead back to life and turn the darkness to light.

Luke 3:4-6 ⁴ *As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of YHWH, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made (miyshowr) straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; ⁶ And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*

The messianic theme of Zechariah 4:6 is associated with the building of the temple. Here Zerubbabel is pictured as the master builder who not only lays the foundation but also completes the building by placing the “*topstone*”. Here Zerubbabel fulfills the dual literal role of building the 2nd temple but he also fulfills it as the great-great-..... -grandfather of the future messiah Yashua (Jesus). Zerubbabel as the great grandfather of the Messiah was in a manner of speaking part of the foundation of the Messiah’s lineage. It could also be said that he had a part in “*bringing forth*” the future Messiah as the “*Headstone*”. To further clarify the symbolic association between the Messiah and the temple it is illustrative to look at both the Old and New Testament.

The Messiah is described in Isaiah 28:16 as the “*foundation stone*” and a “*sure foundation*”. In Psalms 118:22 He is describe as the “*Head stone of the corner*”. Peter and Paul both show that Yashua (Jesus) was the fulfillment of these prophecies. Both the Old and New Testament are full of the symbolic pictures of the Messiah as the “*top stone*” or “*chief corner stone*”. It is important for accuracy’s sake to note here the New Testament term “*chief corner stone*” is in keeping with the Old Testament idea of the “*top stone*”. Many associate the idea of a corner stone with one focal point at the “*corner*” of the building. But the Biblical messianic model does not imply a Messiah as a chief corner stone of many corner stones. It implies a “*top stone*” or a point of culmination in the this building metaphor. In the table below note the Greek usage of the phrase “*chief corner stone*”. The Greek terms are in keeping with Zechariah’s ideas of a Top Stone.

Isaiah 28:16 ¹⁶ *Therefore thus saith the God YHWH, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*

Zechariah 4:9 ⁹ *The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that YHWH of hosts hath sent me unto you.*

1 Corinthians 3:11 ¹¹ *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

KJV	Greek	Strong's #	phonetic	Meaning
Stone	λίθος	3037	lithos	1) stone (large or small) 1a) common stone (in natural state) 1b) stone, as material
Head	κεφαλή	2776	kephale	1) head, both of men and often of animals. 2) anything supreme, chief, prominent
Corner	γωνία	1137	gonia	1) corner 1a) an external angle, a corner
Farthest Point	ἄκρον	206	ak'-ron	1) the farthest bounds, uttermost parts, end, highest, extreme
Chief Corner	ἀκρογωνιαίος	204	akrogoniaios	1) highest, chief, extreme - angle, point, top
Point	ἀκμήν	188	akmen	{root of ak'-ron # 206} 1) a point 2) extremity, climax

Matthew 21:42-44 ⁴² *Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the **head of the corner**: this is the YHWH's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?*

Mark 12:10-11 ¹⁰ *And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the **head of the corner**: ¹¹ This was the YHWH's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?*

Luke 20:17-18 ¹⁷ *And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the **head of the corner**? ¹⁸ Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.*

Acts 4:10-12 ¹⁰ *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the **head of the corner**. ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Ephesians 2:19 - 3:1 ¹⁹ *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the **chief corner stone**; ²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; ²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

1 Peter 2:1-8 *Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, ² As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: ³ If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. ⁴ To whom coming, **as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,** ⁵ Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷ Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the **head of the corner**, ⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

Another messianic passage indicating an association between Zerubbabel and the Messiah is Haggai 2:20-23. In Zechariah 4 it gave the picture of Zerubbabel as laying the foundation and completing the messianic work of YHWH by bringing forth the “headstone”. Here in Haggai 2 it shows Zerubbabel as an actual signet ring of YHWH with clearly messianic overtones.

Haggai 2:20-23 ²⁰ *And again the word of YHWH came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying, ²¹ Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth; ²² And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother. ²³ In that day, saith YHWH of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubbabel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith YHWH, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith YHWH of hosts.*

To realize the full measure of this messianic promise given to Zerubbabel by YHWH a little more history about Zerubbabel is necessary. Zerubbabel was the great-great-grandson of Jeconiah. Jeconiah was also called Coniah or Jehoiachin in the Scripture. Jeconiah had the dubious distinction of having a direct curse placed upon him and all of his descendants. Jeremiah 22:30 states the following, “*Thus saith YHWH, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.*”



Here is where the true beauty of YHWH's promise to Zerubbabel is revealed. According to Matthew 1 Zerubbabel was the great-great-grandfather of Yashua (Jesus) the Messiah. Yet Jeremiah clearly states that none of Jeconiah's "seed" or descendants would ever rule on the throne of David. Now the Old Testament is clear that the Messiah will in fact rule in Judah and Jerusalem from the throne of David. How is this apparent contradiction rectified? It is rectified by the wonderful promise given to Zerubbabel:

Zechariah 4:6

This is the word of YHWH unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith YHWH of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: (miyshowr) and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

It was not the literal "seed" of Zerubbabel that "brought forth" the Messiah Yashua. And it wasn't by Zerubbabel's "power" or "might". Nor was it by the power or might of Zerubbabel's great-great-grandson Joseph (the husband of Mary). For Joseph was only the legal father of Yashua. The Messiah Yashua was brought forth by the "Spirit of YHWH".

Isaiah 7:13-14 ¹³ And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (God with us)

Matthew 1:18-21 ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. ²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name YASHUA (JESUS): for he shall save his people from their sins. (Ya-shua means Salvation of YA or YA is Salvation)

Now when people point to Matthew 1 and say that it is impossible for the Messiah to have come through the lineage of Jeconiah, just gently remind them of the Promise given to Zerubbabel. By the Spirit of YHWH the blind do see, the lame can walk, the crooked are made straight (miyshowr), and the Son of YHWH was born of a virgin. This is also a good reminder in our personal lives as well. What may seem impossible from our perspective truly is possible not by our own "power" and "might" but by the Spirit of YHWH.

Jeremiah 22:24-30 ²⁴ As I live, saith YHWH, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence; ²⁵ And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans. ²⁶ And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die. ²⁷ But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return. ²⁸ Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not? ²⁹ O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of YHWH. ³⁰ Thus saith YHWH, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.

Abraham > Yashua

Missing
Old Testament
Kings included

Matthew 1
as given

1	Abraham	1	Abraham
2	Isaac	2	Isaac
3	Jacob	3	Jacob
4	Judas	4	Judas
5	Phares	5	Phares
6	Esrom	6	Esrom
7	Aram	7	Aram
8	Aminadab	8	Aminadab
9	Naasson	9	Naasson
10	Salmon	10	Salmon
11	Booz	11	Booz
12	Obed	12	Obed
13	Jesse	13	Jesse
14	David	14	David
15	Solomon	15	Solomon
16	Roboam	16	Roboam
17	Abia	17	Abia
18	Asa	18	Asa
19	Josaphat	19	Josaphat
20	Joram	20	Joram
21	Ahaziah	21	Ozias
22	Joash	22	Joatham
23	Amaziah	23	Achaz
24	Ozias	24	Ezekias
25	Joatham	25	Manasses
26	Achaz	26	Amon
27	Ezekias	27	Josias
28	Manasses	28	Jechonias
29	Amon	29	Salathiel
30	Josias	30	Zorobabel
31	Jehoiakim	31	Abiud
32	Jechonias	32	Eliakim
33	Salathiel	33	Azor
34	Zorobabel	34	Sadoc
35	Abiud	35	Achim
36	Eliakim	36	Eliud
37	Azor	37	Eleazar
38	Sadoc	38	Matthan
39	Achim	39	Jacob
40	Eliud	40	Joseph
41	Eleazar	41	Yashua
42	Matthan		
43	Jacob		
44	Joseph		
45	Yashua		

9x5