

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

ADVENT 2015

These questions are for the **December 20, 2015** sermon, "The Christmas Promise, Part 4." Please read the sermon passage (Zechariah 6:9-15) together out loud.

Sermon Outline:

Note the prophetic descriptions of Jesus Christ:

1. **Behold the Man whose name is the Branch** (12a)
 - A. As the Branch, Jesus is God (only God could pay the price of our sins).
 - B. As the Branch, Jesus is the human fulfillment of God's promise (only man should pay for our sins).
 - C. See also Jeremiah 23:5-6; Zech 3:8; 6:12-13; Isaiah 4:2 & 2 Samuel 23:5.
2. **For He shall branch out from His place** (12b)
 - A. The Messiah was promised through Israel to save the nations.
 - B. Consider the missionary focus of the Older Testament (to Ninevah, Babylon & many more).
3. **And He shall build the temple of the Lord** (12c)
 - A. From Jerusalem, Jesus would enter triumphantly, die and be raised again.
 - B. Jesus will return to Jerusalem!
4. **And He shall bear royal honor and shall sit and rule on His throne** (13a)
 - A. Pilate crowns Jesus with a crown of thorns.
 - B. The plaque above his head read, "The King of the Jews."
5. **And there shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both** (13b)
 - A. Jesus is both Priest and King.
 - B. He has come to offer Himself to bring peace between the Holy One and sinful people.
 - C. Only Jesus--in all of history--could have done this. And he did.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Look up the verses in letter "C" above. Discuss how Jesus is the Branch.
2. Based on #1, above: Since Jesus is the Branch (the promised fulfillment of the "stump" of Jesse), there can be no other branch. Discuss and express the joy in your heart that Jesus is the only Branch!
3. Based on #2, above: Some people think of the Older Testament as the story of Israel, primarily. Consider how God always sent Jesus "out from his place" as the Messiah who would come through the Israelites, but who would save people from every nation. Jesus truly came to save the world!
4. Based on #4, above: Each gospel account recounts how Pilate put the sign over Jesus' head that read "King of the Jews," and how the criminals and people around him all used the phrase, "King of the Jews." Consider John 19:12-22; Matthew 27:27-42; Mark 15:16-32 & Luke 23:32-43. It is of highest importance to recognize that Jesus alone is the King, the anointed Messiah, the Christ. In what way do you submit your life to this King? How are you growing in this despite the fact that the world resists?
5. How does this Old Testament prophecy help you love Jesus deeply? How do we truly keep Christ in Christmas?