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THE PROMISED “BRANCH”

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One of the grand prophecies about the Messiah is that of the promised “Branch.” Though part of a larger “royal” tree, the Messiah is called “the Branch,” the greatest fulfillment of the promise of God that one would sit on David’s throne and reign over his kingdom forever (2 Sam. 7:12-16). Please notice what is said about the promised “Branch”:

1) As he spoke of a day of judgment to be brought on God’s people, Isaiah wrote, *“In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped”* (4:2). There was hope on the horizon for those who would seek out God as a place of refuge and shelter (v. 6). This was a promise of restoration, physically and spiritually, for the faithful remnant of Israel. The spiritual blessings of God would be fully realized in Jesus Christ, God’s Son and Messiah.

2) Isaiah also spoke of the royal lineage and character of the “Branch”: *“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord”* (11:1-2). The house of Jesse represented the royal line of David. Even when the earthly rule of this royal lineage was halted at the Babylonian captivity, Jesus was raised up from the seed of David to sit on David’s throne at the right hand of the Father in heaven (Acts 2:29-36). In Christ is found all the treasures of divine wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3).

3) Jeremiah the prophet spoke of the royal rule of the “Branch”: *“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS”* (23:5-6; 33:15-16). The character of the Messiah and His rule is summed up as “righteousness.” Judgment, righteousness, and peace will characterize His reign. The Hebrew word for “LORD” is Yahweh (Jehovah), a name given to the Messiah, Jesus.

4) Zechariah the prophet gives us some more information about the “Branch”: *“Behold, the Man whose name is the Branch! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the Lord; Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both”* (6:12-13). The Messiah will build the temple of the Lord. Jesus said He would build His church (Matt. 16:18), and members of His body are living stones built up into a spiritual house [temple] (1 Pet. 2:5; 1 Cor. 3:16-17). Jesus would not only be a king, but also a priest on His throne. This was impossible

under the Law of Moses, but Jesus' priesthood is of a different and more superior order (Heb. 7:1-8:1). He is both priest and king.

Jesus is the "Branch" that reigns today and provides for all men the atonement for sin through His own blood. God the Father raised up this Branch to fulfill His word to man by the prophets. Follow Jesus and avail yourself of His divine blessings today.