

The Man Who Is The Branch

Zech 6:12-13

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: 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.

The man whose name is the Branch is none other than Christ. Christ is going to build the Church through humanity. This is not only speaking of Jesus but also of the Body of Christ. The Church will be built through Christ in mankind. The priesthood works through humanity who is filled with Christ. Jesus and the church are one new man on the earth. We have applied all of these kinds of prophetic teachings to Jesus, which is all well and good, but prophetically, this is speaking also to the church today.

Let's look at Isaiah 4:2: "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." Here it says, the Branch of the Lord. Now, let's look at Isaiah 11:1. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." Now, we just read in Isaiah 4:2 that it was a Branch of the Lord, and here we are reading that it's a stem of Jesse, and a branch out of Jesse. So, what is it? Is it a Branch out of the Lord, or is it a Branch out of Jesse? It is both; the Branch refers to the incarnation. The Branch of the Lord represents the image and the glory of God. And the rod out of Jesse represents authority and Kingship which was given to man.

Jesus was both human and divine. He was both a Rod, and a Branch of the Lord, and He was a Branch of David, speaking of the incarnation. Jer 23:5 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.

The divine nature of God mingled and blended with humanity. That's who Jesus was. Now, it's as the Branch, the divine mingled with humanity that He will build the Temple of the Lord. It takes both divinity and humanity.

John 15:1-2 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

We have heard from the time we were regenerated that Jesus was both divine and human. He was fully God and fully man. Colossians tells us that in Him, in this man Jesus, was the fullness of God, the fullness of the Godhead, it says, dwelt bodily in this man Jesus. And then in Isaiah 9:6 tells us that the little baby was the mighty God. The little baby contained the mighty God who created the universe, who flung the stars into existence, and created the spirit in man. That little baby contained nothing less than the mighty God, the creator of the universe. It is by this Branch of the Lord, both humanity and divinity mingled together, that will build the Temple of the Lord.

We have been taught that Jesus was a divine being but we have not been taught that we are the same. We are humanity mingled with divinity. The scripture tells us "As He is SO ARE WE in this world. Can you imagine what the Body of Christ would do if this revelation was unveiled to us? We are Christ on this earth building the glorious church and revealing Christ on the earth. We bear His image and carry his authority to take dominion over the earth and establish the kingdom.

We know that Adam was given authority in the very beginning, to be a proper Priest is to bear the image, and the glory, and carry the divine authority. In John 15 you will find that the Branch became the Vine. "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." Jesus the Branch became a vine. The Body became the Branch.

John 15:1-2 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away: and every branch that bears fruit, he purges it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

The Vine and the Branch are one in substance and life. God looks at us as a corporate man on the earth all constituted with the life and nature of the Vine.

John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,

except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

The key to understanding these verses in John 15 is to understand your true identity. To abide in him is to quiet the natural mind and focus your attention on the truth of your being. You are not just human beings who because of sin are separated from God. You are a son of God created in the image and given dominion to walk as Christ on the earth. Without Christ in us we could do nothing to establish the kingdom on the earth. Even Jesus said "I of mine own self can do nothing, it is my Father working in me that does the works."

John 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

I was taught as a young Christian that this verse meant that if you did not bear fruit that you would be cast into an eternal burning hell to suffer forever. For years carnally minded men have taught such untruth to the Lord's people. Our God is a consuming fire and he does not torture anyone. All this means is that if you do not cast aside your carnality and your religious divisive thinking that you will experience the fire, not as a punishment but as a purification. The fire of God within you will consume everything in your being that is not of Him. Jesus said we will all be salted with fire. Mark 9:49 "For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt."

If we deny the false sense of our human life that we feel is separated from God we will then know and find our true life in Christ. You are not separated from God you are one with God. We are branches of the true vine, until we understand that, until we somehow by the grace and the mercy of God have our eyes unveiled to see that what we are holding on to of our carnal self is what needs to fall into the ground and die.