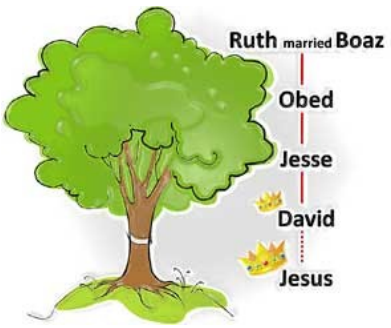
Jesus Christ in the Book of Isaiah



"The BRANCH"

(Isaiah 4:2, 11:1-5 and selected Scriptures)

3/6/2024

4 Great Predictions regarding the rule of the One, who is called: "The Branch"

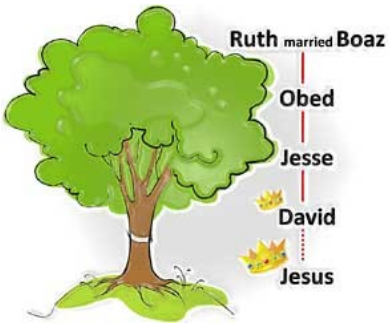
I. **Messiah, the Branch** *(tsemach)* **will Rule with <u>Beauty & Glory</u>** (Isaiah 4:2)

II. **Messiah, the Branch** *(tsemach)* **will Rule with <u>Righteousness</u>** (Jeremiah 23:5 & 33:15)

III. **Messiah, the Branch** *(tsemach)* **will Rule in <u>Peace as King & Priest</u>** (Zech.3:8-9; 6:11-13)

IV. **Messiah, the Branch** *(natzar)* **will Rule with <u>the Holy Spirit's Power & Integrity</u>** (Isaiah 11:1-5, 10)

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Introduction:

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. There are many word pictures used in the Bible to describe the Messiah.

In the Bible, the Messiah is spoken of as:

1) The Seed
2) The Lamb
3) The Rock and Cornerstone
4) The Shepherd
5) A Servant
6) The Arm (of the LORD)

In the N.T. He is called:

1) Bread
2) Light
3) The Door
4) The Day Star
5) The Root and Offspring of David and the bright and morning star (Rev.22:16)

Today, we will look at His description as: <u>The Branch</u>

God made a promise (a binding oath; a covenant) that a King would sit on the throne of David and rule forever (2 Samuel 7:13, 16 and 1 Chronicles 17:11-14 and 2 Chronicles 6:16 reiterated by Isaiah 9:7). Solomon (David's son) would follow David's rule but would eventually die; The Kingdom of Israel would be divided after Solomon's death). This promise is ultimately future. As King Jesus (of the line and lineage of David) will reign forever!

The messiah's family tree was predicted to be from the lineage of Jesse and David.

The "<u>Family Tree</u>" - Seeing a Family Tree is interesting, to see the connectedness to ancient relatives.

Christ's Family Tree (as pertaining to His physical body) is found in Matthew and Luke's Gospels.

What a Golden Age is coming in the future Millennial Kingdom! Utopia is coming!

"For many centuries, man has dreamed of a "Golden Age," a "utopia" in which the human race will be free from war, sickness, and even death. Men have tried to achieve this goal on their own and have failed." (Wiersbe, p. 620)

Proofs for the literal establishment of the Millennial Kingdom:

a. The Scriptures **teach** it (Rev. 20:1-7)

b. God **detailed** it (Is. 11, etc)

c. Christ **promised** it (Mt. 26:29)

Matthew 26:29

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

d. The Apostles **expected** it (Acts 1:6-7)

Acts 1:6-7

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

e. Creation **awaits** it (Rom. 8:19-22)

A Glimpse at the Future Kingdom

(Selected Scriptures in Isaiah)



The Kingdom will be a time of...

1. **Global Worship at Mount Zion** (Isaiah 2:1-3)

The Kingdom will be a time of...

2. **Perfect Justice and International Peace *(No War or Weapons)*** (Isaiah 2:4)

The Kingdom will be a time of...

3. **Viewing Jesus the Messiah as Beautiful and Glorious** (Isaiah 4:2)

The Kingdom will be a time of...

4. **Holiness and Spiritual Purity among God's People** (Isaiah 4:3-4)

The Kingdom will be a time of...

5. **A supernaturally produced canopy for shade and refuge over Zion** (Isaiah 4:5-6)

The Kingdom will be a time of...

6. **Governmental Rule resting squarely on the shoulders of the Messiah** (Isaiah 9:6-7; 11:1-5)

The Kingdom will be a time of...

7. **A peaceful coexistence between animals and people *(the curse is removed)*** (Isaiah 11:6-9)

The Kingdom will be a time of…

8. **A universal knowledge of Jesus as Jehovah God and a re-gathering around Him** (Isaiah 11:9b-12)

The Kingdom will be a time of…

9. **Rest and safety as Lucifer (Satan) is bound up in Hell** (Isaiah 14:7-15)

The Kingdom will be a time of…

10. **Righteousness and Justice** (Isaiah 32:1-5)

The Kingdom will be a time of…

11. **Renovation for the Earth and Restoration of Health** (Isaiah 35:1-8; Compare Is.40:1-5)

The Kingdom will be a time of…

12. **The appearance of the brilliant Light of Christ's glorious radiance** (Isaiah 60:1-3; 19-20)

4 Great Predictions regarding the rule of the One, who is called: "The Branch"

I. Messiah, the Branch *(tsemach)* will Rule with <u>Beauty & Glory</u> (Isaiah 4:2)

In the previous two chapters, God foretells the woe of the Day of the Lord's wrath (Is. 2-3).

SEE: Isaiah 2:10-21.
After the Day of the Lord comes the Millennium! Christ's rule and reign.

"Branch" - the word *tsemach* is a <u>sprouting</u> branch or a shoot which grows out of a tree (here, the Davidic tree).

v. 2
"The Branch" -
--<u>The</u> Branch is <u>specific</u> (one in particular)
--The <u>Branch</u> is <u>singular</u> (not many, but exclusively one)
--The Branch is <u>selected</u> (by God the Father)
(The Branch is associated with Yahweh --"The Branch <u>of the LORD</u>" - The Lord's Branch)

"Beautiful" - Branches on trees are beautiful. But none can compare with this One, who is marked for beauty!

At Messiah's first coming, there was <u>no</u> external "beauty that we should desire Him" (Is. 53:2).

However, at His second coming, His splendor and radiant glory will be unimaginably beautiful.

His glory was veiled or hidden at His first coming to the earth, but will be fully manifested at His return.!

With the curse removed, the earth will literally bring forth abundant fruit. Those who made it through (escaped) the Day of the Lord will enjoy it!

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.
Revelation 22:2

v. 3
Only those who are made holy by Jesus Christ will inhabit the Kingdom.

Unless you are born again, you will not see that Kingdom (Jn. 3:3).

Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. *Revelation 21:27*

v. 4

"Lord" = *Adonay* - Jesus Christ

"The Spirit of judgment" - righteous and just are His ways!

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.
Revelation 19:11

"The spirit of burning" - Jesus will consume all of the wicked and their works by the spirit of His mouth.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
2 Thessalonians 2:8

v. 5-6

Mt. Zion will be the headquarters for Christ's rule and reign.

A protective canopy like the Shekinah glory cloud will hover over the New City of Jerusalem. This glorious canopy will provide shade, safety, and protection from all harm.

II. **Messiah, the Branch** *(tsemach)* **will Rule with <u>Righteousness</u>** (Jeremiah 23:5 & 33:15)

Another time the word *tsemach* (branch) is used in reference to the Messiah is in Jeremiah 23:5 and 33:15.

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.
Jeremiah 23:5

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.
Jeremiah 33:15

"Behold the days come" -

After rebuking the unfaithful shepherds of Israel (23:1-4), God predicts the arrival of the perfect Leader - the Messiah (v. 5-6)!

v. 5
"A righteous Branch" - Normally we don't think of branches as having character. However, a branch in a lineage would.

In contrast to all of the wicked kings that stemmed from Israel (See 1 and 2 Kings), One stands out as perfectly righteous!

"Shall execute judgment (right decisions or sentences) and justice (righteousness, right actions) in the earth" - Finally, a perfect political leader!

v. 6
His name? The LORD (Yahweh) our righteousness

Who is the Branch? He is Yahweh!
What is He to us? He is our righteousness!

He does not merely give righteousness, He <u>is</u> our righteousness.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.
For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.
Romans 10:3-4

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.
2 Corinthians 5:21

Throughout human history, men have wondered about the same question that the ancient Job asked: "How should a man be just with God?" (Job 9:2; cp. 25:4).

***Justification is that judicial act of God by which He declares the sinner as righteous and treats him as such.**

God's justification of a sinner does not **make** him sinless (innocent); rather, God declares the guilty sinner as righteous because of the sinner's new relationship to His Son Jesus Christ. The saved sinner has a new position or standing in the eyes of God, whereby God views and declares a "justified" man as being "just as if he had never sinned."

***JUST IF I ED**

JUST (as) IF I (had never sinn-) ED"

Justification refers to man's position in God's sight -- "justified in His sight (Rom. 3:20)

"The righteousness of God" - How righteous is God? Perfect!
You have God's perfection credited to your spiritual bank account if you are "in Him" (in relationship with Christ).

Reconciliation is possible because we have the righteousness of Christ wrapped around us.

ILLUS: The man who tried to get into Heaven without a wedding garment (Matthew 22:11f).

See Jeremiah 33:15-16:

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.
In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this *is the name* wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness.
Jeremiah 33:15-16

Not only will the Messiah be called "The LORD our righteousness," but the city of Jerusalem will bear this name as well, because Jesus Christ will rule from there on the everlasting throne of David, in fulfillment of 2 Samuel 7:13-16.

III. Messiah, the Branch *(tsemach)* **will Rule in <u>Peace as King & Priest</u>** (Zech.3:8-9; 6:11-13)

"Zechariah predicted more about Messiah than any other prophet except Isaiah" (Ryrie note).

Joshua the high priest served in the rebuilt Temple after the Babylonian captivity. He was just a man who was a sinner who needed cleansing (Zech. 3:4).

The ultimate High Priest, *Yeshua*/Joshua (Jesus the Messiah) is prophesied in v. 8-9.

v. 8
"My servant the BRANCH" - Messiah would perfectly perform the will of God the Father.

v. 9
"Upon one stone shall be seven eyes" - speaks of the perfect omniscience of Messiah's Holy Spirit.

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
Revelation 5:6

v. 10
Prosperity and peace mark the Messiah's Kingdom.

Zech. 6:13 -

"The crowning of Joshua foreshadowed the crowning of Messiah, who at His second coming will build the Millennial Temple and unite the offices of King and Priest in one person, like Melchizadek" (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7) (Ryrie note).

Only one person was to have the offices of King and Priest - the Messiah!

A separation of powers existed throughout Bible history (EX: King Saul could not act as a priest and no priest could rule as a king; however, these two offices come together perfectly in the Messiah!).

IV. Messiah, the Branch *(natzar)* will Rule with <u>the Holy Spirit's Power & Integrity</u> (Isaiah 11:1-5, 10)

"Branch" -
The word *natzar* refers to a new green shoot which grows out of a tree (again, the Davidic family tree).

The terminology in Isaiah 11:1 points to a key descendent, a particularly vitally important descendent of the Davidic lineage.

"The Messianic character of this title is recognized in the Targum, rabbinical literature, and the Qumran material cited in the Nezer and the Submission in Suffering Hymn from the Dead Sea Scrolls edited by M. Wallenstein [Istanbul, 1957]" (cited by TWOT, (vol. 2) p. 595).

"The New Testament makes at least two references to this Messianic title "Branch" using the LXX translation of the root *tsemach*: *anatole* and *anatello*. Hebrews 7:14 is to be translated "our Lord <u>sprang forth</u> (or sprouted) from Judah." But in Luke 1:78 with its *anatole exhypsous*, the equation of *tsemach YHWH* is complete. Therefore we translate the verse, "Because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the Branch from on High shall visit us" (TWOT, Vol. 2, p. 770).

Two proofs that "Nazareth" is related to the word *natzar*:

1) The obvious <u>phonetic</u> correspondence
(compare "Natzar" with "Nazareth")
Mt 2:23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

2) The humble, <u>lowliness</u> motif of Isaiah 11:1
(Gundry)

"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" (Jn. 1:46)

v. 2
Isaiah's reference to the Messiah being anointed with the Holy Spirit finds its fulfillment in Matthew 3:1-17.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
Matthew 3:16-17

Similar to the seven eyes of the Branch/Stone of Zech. 3:9

This Branch with the seven eyes is the Spirit of Jesus – Revelation 5:6:

"Midst" = middle. Christ is in the middle of the throne with the Father (Note: Surrounding the throne are the four beasts; surrounding the beasts are the 24 elders).

"Lamb" - representing Christ (John 1:29).

"Stood a Lamb" - NOTE: Jesus is standing, no longer seated (Mk. 16:19). STanding because of the judgments He is about to unfold. Cp. "The judge standeth before the door" (Ja. 5:9).

"Slain" - lit. slaughtered. Perfect tense indicates the lasting effects of Christ's crucifixion. He will forever bear the marks of His death (Lk. 24:40; John 20:2, 27).

"Seven horns" - "horn" - a symbol of strength, power or might. It often symbolized a conqueror (EX> Alexander the Great and his four succeeding generals - Dan. 8:3, 8). (Ex: 10 horned confederacy of the revived Roman empire and the little horn representing the Anti-christ (Dan. 7:7, 8, 20).

"The Seven Spirits of God" = a reference to the Holy Spirit in His perfection.

Proof -

1. The seven spirits being pictured as the eyes "of Christ" are part of Christ as is the Holy Spirit. (Jn. 14:18).

2. SEE: Zech. 4:2, 6, 10

"Sent forth" - to send as an official representative. The verb has reference to the mission of the Spirit (Swete).

Whereas Rev. 4 described the praise of God the Father (the throne-sitter), Rev. 5 describes the praise of God the Son. Wehreas in Rev. 4, praise goes to the Lord of Creation, chapter 5 - the Lord of Redemption.

Isaiah 11:2

Here the seven-fold description of the Spirit of the Branch is made known.

1) The Spirit of the LORD
2) The Spirit of wisdom
3) The Spirit of understanding
4) The Spirit of counsel
5) The Spirit of might (strength)
6) The Spirit of knowledge
7) The Spirit of the fear of the Lord (reverence)

v. 3

Messiah will not make a judgment or decision merely based on visual or audible human senses (which have often proven insufficient in mortals).

Rather, He will judge with perfect integrity and righteousness!

Conclusion:

If Jesus is the "Branch," then He is Yahweh! (Jer. 23:6).

If He is Lord, we have no choice but to worship and obey Him!

As Jesus said, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Thus saith the Lord:

You call me Light and
You see me not.
You call me the Way and
You follow me not.
You call me Truth and
You believe me not.
You call me Just and
You trust me not.
You call me Mighty and
You fear me not.
You call me Salvation and
You honor me not.
You call me Rich and
You ask me not.
You call me Worthy and
You praise me not.
You call me eternal and
You seek me not.
You call me Master and
You obey me not.