

THE NARRATIVE OF SCRIPTURE, PART 7

“...he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. He will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.” (Zechariah 6:13, NIV)

IT’S ONE THING TO BE NUMBER ONE ON THE MONEY LIST or number one on the points list. While those are great accomplishments, try this one on for size: be number one both as the Tour’s best driver *and* as its best short game player.

To be the Tour’s best overall driver, you have to hit it far *and* straight; to be its best scrambler, you have to wedge it well *and* make your putts.

All in all, that’s a lot of *ands*. Thus, the unlikelihood of this accomplishment.

In the histories of Scripture, the most unlikely of combination within a single man were the roles of king and priest. Priests came from the Levitical line, kings never. And because kings were leaders of earthly power, they were often reluctant, even antagonistic, in ceding some measure of authority to the priests.

This is why Zechariah’s prophecy of the Messiah is so remarkable. Here would be one who would sit on the throne as king. But when there, he would also be a priest. The roles would be harmoniously united in this one man.

At the time, of course, neither Zechariah nor any who heard him could have identified this Messiah as Jesus of Nazareth. Don’t blame them. There were few, if any, who recognized this when Jesus was born. Even the magi, who came looking for the one born king, would not also have known of his priestly role. It was only as Jesus’ life unfolded and as the apostles and gospels were led by the Holy Spirit in their recording and interpreting Jesus’ life that they came to recognize the fullness of this man.

Jesus entered Jerusalem the Sunday ahead of his death, received as a king. Pilate chose “King of the Jews” as the identifier above Jesus’ head on the cross. And the writer of Hebrews saw that Jesus followed the priestly line of Melchizedek, who met with Abraham, bearing the name of “king of peace.” It was this Melchizedek who preceded Jesus like no other—indeed, who may have been a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus himself before he came to be the Christ. This is our Savior, one who is wholly qualified to govern and to minister. It is only right that we are awed by him!

Opening questions Thinking of your usual foursome(s), what are you best at among your golf buddies? Consider and discuss examples of people who are excellent at multiple endeavors in life.

READING Zechariah 6:9-15, Hebrews 4:14-5:10, Hebrews 7:1-28

Unpacking Zechariah

Zechariah is full of prophetic actions and pictures, including the placing of the crown on the head of Joshua (the same name given to Jesus – “Yeshua,” meaning “he saves”). We recognize this as a prophetic picture, because the Joshua of Zechariah 6 never sat on the nation’s throne.

What qualities do you attribute to a king? And to a priest? How do you see these qualities in Jesus?

Jesus and Melchizedek

The Hebrews passages expand our understanding of the connection between Melchizedek (the priest who met Abraham) and Jesus. How is Jesus the perfect priest? What makes him worthy to be king?

Written by Jeff Hopper ©2015 Links Players International. A 6-minute video accompanies today’s study at <http://youtu.be/Po14tYBLok>