

## What is the Messiah's Name?

Did you know that a little understood prophecy in the Book of Zechariah [Zechariah] actually tells us what the name of the Messiah would be? We do not have to guess what his name is since it is plainly written in the Tanakh -- and it does not say "Jesus."

How do we know, after all these years, what the Messiah's name really was? The answer is quite simple, although little recognized. We know because the prophets prophesied that his name would be "Yehoshua" -- the long form of "Yeshua."

Many readers will know that the title "Branch" is an appellation for the one promised to be the Messiah. In fact, there are two such prophecies in Jeremiah.

*"In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up to David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell in safety: and this is the name by which she shall be called, 'YHVH our righteousness' [wnqdu hwwhy, YHVH Tsidqeinu]" (Jeremiah 33:15-16).*

*"Behold, the days come, saith YHVH, that I will raise to David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice upon the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell in safety: and this is his name by which he shall be called, 'YHVH our righteousness'" (Jeremiah 23:5-6).*

However, neither one of these verses reveals to us the name of the Branch. They merely state that the coming Messiah, known as the "Branch", would be a righteous king, a descendant of King David, and that he would be the one responsible for bringing salvation to the Jews and to the rest of the tribes of Israel.

Now let us turn to a short account from Zechariah, in which YHVH instructs the prophet to crown the then current High Priest, Joshua.

*"Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, and of Jedaiah, who are come from Babylon, and come thou the same day, and go into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah; Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua [eswhy, Yehoshua] the son of Josedech, the high priest; And speak to him, saying, Thus speaketh YHVH 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 YHVH: Even he shall build the temple of YHVH; 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" (Zechariah 6:10-13).*

The word translated "Branch" in all these verses is the same Hebrew word, xmu (*tsemach*). Therefore, there is identity between the "Branch" in Jeremiah 23, Jeremiah 33 and Zechariah 6.

In this short drama, we find Joshua (Yehoshua) the High Priest performing in the starring role of the Branch. Essentially the scripture is saying: "Look at the man (Yehoshua) whose name is the Branch." In other words, the current High Priest of Judah in the days of Zechariah, Joshua (Yehoshua), has the same name as the one who would become the "Branch."

In Zechariah 6:10-13, we also discover many very interesting prophecies about the Branch. The Branch

will grow up out of his place. The Branch will build the temple of YHVH; the Branch will bear the glory; the Branch will sit and rule upon his throne; the Branch will be a priest upon his throne; and, the Branch will have a counsel of peace with YHVH.

What an awesome and wonderful prophecy!