

December 7, 2021

[Zechariah 6:12-13](#)

The Book of Zechariah was written as the Jews returned as former exiles from Babylon to Judah and attempted to reestablish Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple, around 520-515 AD. My Bible commentary states that the Prophet Zechariah was concerned with more than just the physical rebuilding of the temple and reclaiming of their physical homeland, but also had the desire to see a restored relationship between God and his people. In 6:13, Zechariah refers to a King who will share the throne with a Priest, “and there will be peaceful counsel between the two of them.”

In the last few years, the season of Advent has become fraught with the busyness of to-do lists and forced family fun. As a mom, I feel the crush of wanting to control the holiday season to make every experience magical-- all with a true intention to find joy amidst the chaos! I believe many can relate; the desire to manufacture the “Christmas Spirit” often takes the spirit right out of our Christmases. I find comfort in these verses from Zechariah about a King who rules in splendor overseeing the concerns of his people and the Priest who intercedes for them sharing the same throne—Jesus is both our Lord and our High Priest. And there is peace between the pressing concerns of the world (for the Jews rebuilding the temple) and the spiritual concerns of rebuilding relationship with God. How can this be? Only in Jesus. Jesus is the Branch that extends out to each of us. Jesus our King and High Priest invites us into a place of peace at the intersection of the world’s demands and the Spirit’s calling.

My intention this Advent is that I might not tack holiday spirit onto a to-do list; but cultivate it from a place of gratitude for what Christ has already done for me. As He continues to intercede for me, I pray that I might find space for remembering, meditating, and quieting my heart for His presence. Jesus knows the tensions we live in. He does not ask us to overcome the world; rather, He has already overcome it! And He invites us to share His kingdom with the ones He loves on earth.

“Oh come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, Oh come and Behold Him, born the King of Angels, Christ the Lord.”

Mary Flynn Niemitz