

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Zechariah 6: 9-15

9. And in the evening, after an lamb stew with many spices therein, and a tankard of fine wine to wash it down, the word of the Lord came unto me, Zechariah, saying repeat after me. And I did.
10. Take of them of the captivity, even of Heldai, of Tobijah, of Jedaiah, and of Quentin and Herbert which are come from Babylon by way of numerous wadis and meeting places, and come thou the same day, by the same camel transport if needed, and go without knocking into the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah; and if he protesteth say, The Lord hath need of this place, and he shall let thee enter with much muttering. And he will rue the knocking up that is upon him.
11. Then take silver and gold and erect a furnace in his court, in the middle next to the little fountain and statuette of Delilah, and maketh thee the fire - oof! Very hot with much puffing and blowing, and melt thee the metals and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, but maketh sure they are cool first otherwise there will be much burning and scalding and exclamations, such as Sodom, and Shittim;
12. And speak unto Joshua, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The Branch, or maybe The Trunk for I am not sure of what I heard as I was on my second tankard; but whatever his name (maybe it was The Twig, or Twiglet) he shall grow up out of his place like unto a tree, and cover his people with many leaves, especially in the summer but drop them in autumn, and he shall build the temple of the Lord.
13. And even if he lacketh the skill of a builder he shall find helpers who can lay bricks and build scaffolding, and roof tilers and carpenters, and all who can bend over with exposition, and he shall direct the building of the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory and the praise such as all employers do who glorify in the skills of their workers, and he shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne; and he shall be a magistrate upon his throne; and he shall be lots of other things as well: and the counsel of peace shall be between them. Verily.
14. And the crowns shall be to Heldai, and to Tobijah, and to Jedaiah, and special pretty ones to Quentin and to Herbert, and a small one to Hen the son of Zephaniah, for a memorial in the temple of the Lord. But to Josiah the son of Zephaniah there shall be no glory, for he did not open his doors willingly.
15. And they that are far off shall come and build in the temple of the Lord many rooms for meetings and prayers and readings and theatricals and music and poetry, origami and art and cookery and dining and the making of chariots and buildings from little pieces of stick, and ye shall know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you. And this shall come to pass, if ye will diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God that I have declared unto thee. And because these verses were exceeding long I did cease from prophesying and ask if there was any more stew. And behold there was, and I did taste of it and it was good. And there was evening and there was morning and much repeating again. And I thought, No, it wasn't Twiglet. Or was it?