

Relegation of Z to second place in the United States system

Sam. P. Cochran, the incoming Grand High Priest, delivered a highly ornate address on his installation! That he obeyed the injunction to "search the Scriptures" is made manifest and his reasoning therefrom is interesting, if not unique. The relegation of Zerubbabel to second place in the United States system he justifies from his own peculiar reading of sacred history.

"While Moses was the leader of Israel, by God's direction, his brother Aaron was made first High Priest, as God's representative before the people. Thereby it was intended to direct the minds of the people to God's supremacy over all worldly conditions, and the greater importance of spiritual than of secular control and direction; and this elevation of the spiritual above the worldly or civil government is further typified in our constitution of Royal Arch Chapters at this day, where we place the High Priest Joshua above Zerubbabel, the Prince and Governor, and Haggai, the Scribe. This Joshua, whom we thus represent, was not the Joshua who succeeded Moses as the civil and military leader of Israel. At the time of the destruction of the Temple at Jerusalem, the acting High Priest, Seraiah, was taken captive by Nabuzaradan, the General in command, and slain by order of Nebuchadnezzar. His son, Jehozadak or Josedach, was carried away to Babylon, where he died; and his son, Jeshua, or Joshua, succeeded him as High Priest, and co-operated zealously with Zerubbabel and Haggai in restoring the Israelitish polity and rebuilding the Temple, when the people were liberated by Cyrus and allowed to return to Jerusalem. It is this Joshua, the High Priest, whom we commemorate by making the first officer of our Royal Arch Chapter a High Priest, and placing him higher in authority than the King and Scribe, his associates in Council."

Sources:

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1907 report on Foreign Correspondence - TEXAS