



ZECHARIAH

A Glorious Future!

The Glory of Our High Priest!

Zechariah 3:1-10

Message #4 of 15 – S1009

Sermon given on August 14, 2022



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Glory of Our High Priest!

Zechariah 3:1-10

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Zechariah 3**
- Today, we continue a series through the book of **Zechariah: A Glorious Future**
- Zechariah was given a series of eight visions to encourage the people of Israel who had returned from the Babylonian exile
- Their beloved Jerusalem had lain desolate for seventy years
- Rebuilding it and the temple had not been going well and they were not flourishing as a people
- So far, we have looked at the first three of the eight visions
- In them God has told them through Zechariah that God would restore them, and the city and that the temple would be rebuilt
- He also gave them the precious promise of His presence
- The more I grow in my faith, the more humbled I am at the thought of that
- What would it be like to stand in the presence of Jesus?
- Today's text is going to help us picture that
- Let's pray and then look at a few verses - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Glory of Our High Priest!**
- Chapter 3 contains the fourth of eight visions
- **Zechariah 3:1a**
- Joshua was one of the Jews who returned from the Babylonian exile
- Joshua was the high priest at the time Zechariah got these visions
- He was from the tribe of Levi and direct descendant of Aaron, Moses' brother
- The high priest served as an intermediary for the people to God
- He would represent the people to God
- One of his most significant duties was on the Day of Atonement – he would carry the blood of the sacrifice once a year behind the veil into the Holy of Holies and atone for the sins of the whole nation

- **Zechariah 3:1b**

- We have already identified the Angel of the Lord as the preincarnate Christ Jesus – the Messiah

- ‘standing before’ is symbolic of the ministry of the high priest

- What makes this symbolism even richer is that after Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended back to heaven He became our high priest

Hebrews 4:14

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God...

- He now stands before God as our mediator with God

- But then a third being is identified

- **Zechariah 3:1c**

- Satan hates people because we are made in the image of God.

- He especially hates those who are seeking to serve God.

- He stands and accuses them before God for all the sinful things they have done.

- His desire is that God will reject His people, the Jews, forever.

- We know that is something God will never do **Jeremiah 32:40**

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.

- As Joshua stands before Christ, Satan stands beside him accusing him like a prosecuting attorney.

- Satan is a liar and speaks only lies, but he wouldn't have to lie in this circumstance.

- Everyone, even the holiest person on earth, has sins that Satan could accuse us all **Romans 3:23**

... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- But notice how the Angel of the Lord responds to Satan's accusations

- **Zechariah 3:2**

- Jesus, the Angel of the Lord doesn't accuse Satan of lying, he just tells him to shut up

- The Lord chose Jerusalem = the people of Israel

- God's choice nullifies the accusations of the Devil **Romans 8:33-34**

Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

- ‘brand plucked from the fire’ describes the state of Jerusalem and its people
- They were like a piece of wood that had been in the fire but pulled out before it was burned up
- The ‘fire’ is referring to the exile in Babylon **Amos 4:11**
“I overthrew some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD.
- Fire is often used symbolically to refer to God’s discipline or judgment.
- The brand is a symbol of having experienced the consequences of sin.
- Even though they have experienced the consequences of their sins, God has not allowed them to be destroyed.
- This does not mean Joshua was sinless
- **Zechariah 3:3**
- ‘filthy’ = the nastiest things you can imagine
- These filthy garments are symbolic of the effects of sin on our lives
- Joshua represented the holiness of the people of Israel
- Too often we compare our holiness to the people around us
- Compared to most people Joshua probably was one of the holiest people in Jerusalem
- Yet, standing before the holiness of Christ – filthy garments **Isaiah 64:6a**

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...

- The most righteous things we do are filthy rags compared to the holiness of God
- So, how do unclean beings stand before such a holy God? – grace
- **Zechariah 3:4-5**
- This is a picture of Christ’s free, undeserved, gracious forgiveness of those who repent and put their trust in Him.
- ‘I will clothe you...’ in the garments of salvation. **Isaiah 61:10**
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

- The rich robes are the righteousness of Christ all of God's people are clothed in through faith in Christ.
 - This is a promise of the glorious future for the nation of Israel.
 - The Messiah will justify them all and cleanse them of all unrighteousness.
 - Then the Angel of the Lord speaks to Joshua
 - **Zechariah 3:6-7**
 - The Angel of the Lord describes three rewards for Joshua
 - 'judge My house' – in this context house means God's people
 - And the word 'judge' has the idea of ruling or governing
 - 'have charge of My courts' – will care for the things of the temple
 - The third one is a little hard to interpret – might refer to special areas of service in heaven
 - The key thing to note is that these are conditional rewards
 - "If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command..."
 - Rewards are the blessing of faithful obedience to God and His Word
 - A friend of mine was fond of saying, "God is never doing a singular work!"
 - Everything that God does is connected to other things He is doing
 - God is not justifying Joshua just so that he is right before God, He is doing it as a sign of something else He is doing
 - **Zechariah 3:8**
 - The work of justification, grace, and mercy toward Joshua and the others was 'a wondrous sign' of who was coming in the future
 - "My Servant" is a term used many times to point to the Messiah
 - 'the BRANCH' occurs less frequently **Isaiah 11:1**
- There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.**
- From this we know that the Messiah would be a descendant of Jesse's son David
 - 'bringing forth' = the miraculous birth of Christ
 - Next, we have a verse with a lot of symbolism
 - **Zechariah 3:9**
 - The 'stone' is another reference to the Messiah **Psalms 118:22**
- The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

- This verse is a prediction that the Messiah would be rejected by many
- Jesus, our Messiah/Savior is either a stone that you stumble over or He is the stone upon which you build your life
- ‘seven eyes’ = omniscience – infinite knowledge – all-seeing
- ‘engrave its inscription’ – not clear.
- Has been suggested that if the stone is symbolic of the Messiah, the inscription might be the scars of His sacrifice for sin.
- ‘I will remove the iniquity...’ Pointing to the day of national repentance of Israel (Rom. 11:26-27 – all Israel saved) which will take place at the Second Coming of Christ **Zechariah 12:10**

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

- God has a glorious future for the nation of Israel
- They stand before Jesus today in filthy garments
- But this vision given to Zechariah promises a cleansing, justifying work toward God’s wayward people
- Jesus finished the work of justifying all mankind on the cross
- It is His blood shed that justifies by faith
- Sadly, Zechariah 12:10 points to the Second Coming of Christ
- That means they will have to go through the Tribulation – worst time in human history – many will die – lost in their sin
- But those Jews who do experience the Second Coming will also experience what comes after it
- **Zechariah 3:10**
- This is a picture of contentment and happiness.
- That will be the reality of the Millennium.
- The name Joshua translated into Greek is Jesus.
- As we prepare to partake of Communion together, we should try to picture ourselves standing before Christ
- Jesus is our great High Priest.
- He intervenes on our behalf and rebukes Satan as he accuses us.
- He cleanses us of all our sins.
- He challenges us to faithful service and obedience.

- He will deliver us to heaven to be with Him forever.
- Knowing all that ought to cause us to love Him even more.
- And before you partake of Communion, you should examine yourself
- Are you clothed with the righteousness of Christ? Rejoice!
- Or are you still wearing the filthy garments of your sin? Repent!
- We partake of Communion together because of what Jesus did for us that made it possible for us to have a glorious future
- Pastor Randy is going to lead us in partaking in a manner that is worthy of what was done for us
- **Pray**