

Zechariah 3

Scriptures:

Exodus 19:6 – ‘And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’
These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.

1 Peter 2:9-10 - But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Notes:

The previous text reminded us of the glorious presence of Almighty God.
The question that might bring to mind is, ‘How can sinful people hope to experience God’s holy presence?’

“How can a morally defiled and sinful people be made fit to appear in the presence of God, much less to be priests and ministers for the Holy One who inhabits heaven?” (Kaiser, 1992) page 330

Zechariah 3:1-10 - The Glory of Our High Priest!

Scriptures:

Haggai 1:1-2 - In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, 2 "Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built." ' "

Revelation 12:10 - Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down."

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.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 John 1:8-10 - If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

^A 1 Then he showed **me** ^J Joshua the high priest

standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan

standing at his right hand to oppose him.

H7853 – to
accuse, be an
adversary
Rev. 12:10 -
accuser

Notes:

V1-2 – Christ intervenes as our High Priest!

'Joshua the high priest' – (Hag. 1:1-2). He was from the tribe of Levi and a direct descendant of Aaron.
'Joshua' = 'The Lord saves'

'standing before' is symbolic of the ministry of the high priest – to stand before the Lord in the temple to mediate between God and the people.

The High Priest's role was to mediate between holy God and mankind. The high priest represents the whole nation of Israel. The problem is that the high priest was not much holier than the people he was mediating for.

'Satan...oppose him' – Satan hates people 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 forever. We know that is something God will never do (Jer. 32:40).

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 (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10).

Scriptures:
 Isaiah 50:8-9a - He is near
 who justifies Me;
 Who will contend with
 Me?
 Let us stand together.
 Who is My adversary?
 Let him come near Me.
 9 Surely the Lord GOD
 will help Me;
 Who is he who will
 condemn Me?

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.

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.

Scriptures:
 Isaiah 64:6-7 -
 But we are all like an
 unclean thing,
 And all our
 righteousnesses are like
 filthy rags;
 We all fade as a leaf,
 And our iniquities, like
 the wind,
 Have taken us away.
 7 And there is no one
 who calls on Your name,
 Who stirs himself up to
 take hold of You;
 For You have hidden Your
 face from us,
 And have consumed us
 because of our iniquities.

Romans 11:1a - I say then,
 has God cast away His
 people? Certainly not!

² And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke

H1605 - to rebuke
 v. — to censure
 severely or
 angrily.

you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem

H977 -

rebuke you! *is* this not a brand plucked from the

H1605 -

H181 - firebrand
 n. — a piece of
 wood that has
 been burned or is
 burning.

H5337 -
 snatched
 away

fire?"

Notes:
 We don't have to answer Satan's
 accusations – Jesus will answer on
 our behalf (Isa. 50:8-9a; Rom. 8:33-
 34).

'The LORD rebuke you, Satan!' –
 Nowhere does the Bible call humans
 to rebuke Satan. Only God can do
 that. We certainly can ask God to do
 it, but we have no authority to do it
 ourselves.

God's choice nullifies the
 accusations of the Devil (Rom. 8:33).

'brand plucked...' (Amos 4:11) is a
 piece of wood that is burning or has
 been burned. Fire is often used
 symbolically to refer to God's
 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.

At the time Zechariah wrote this, the
 nation of Israel was a ruined mess.

'the fire' = the Babylonian captivity.
 It might also look back to the
 deliverance for the Egyptians and
 ahead to the deliverance from the
 Antichrist during the Tribulation.

God's mercy exceeds Satan's
 accusations and the people's sins.

"God had brought Israel through
 these sufferings, not to destroy
 them, but to discipline them and
 prepare them to carry out God's
 future purpose for them." (Hocking,
 2000) page 46

Notes:
 V3-4 – Christ cleanses us as our High
 Priest!

'filthy' has the idea of the worst
 kinds of filth.

'filthy garments...' (Isa. 64:6) is
 symbolic of the effects of sin. Just
 because God's people sin, it doesn't
 mean God casts them aside (Rom.
 11:1). As the high priest Joshua
 represents the holiest person in
 Israel and the nation as a whole.
 There is a picture of the Day of
 Atonement here also.

How can God bless a filthy nation or
 people or person? The answer is
 simple, by grace through the
 Messiah!

³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments,

H6674 - filthy adj.
 — disgustingly
 dirty; filled or
 smeared with
 offensive matter.

and was standing before the Angel.

Scriptures:

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.

4 Then He answered and spoke to those who

stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy

garments from him." And to him He said, "See,

I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will

H5674 -

H5771 — sin (act) n. — an act or
feeling that transgresses
something forbidden or ignores
something required by God's law
or character; whether in thought,
feeling, speech, or action.

clothe you with rich robes."

Notes:

Joshua, even though he was the
highest religious person in the
nation, couldn't cleanse himself.
There is nothing anyone can do to
cleanse themselves of the filth of the
sin that has touched our lives.

This is a picture of Christ's free,
undeserved, gracious forgiveness of
those who repent and put their trust
in Him.

'Take away the filthy...' — This is the
act of justification. The filthy
garments represent his sins, and the
rich robes symbolize the
righteousness of Christ.

"Joshua wasn't pardoned by the
Lord because the accusations against
weren't justified, but because of
God's mercy and love." (Lieth, 2002)
page 83

'I will clothe you...' (Isa. 61:10) in the
garments of salvation. 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.

This is what the blood of Christ does
for anyone who will put their trust in
Him.

Scriptures:

Exodus 29:7-9 - And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head, and anoint him. 8 Then you shall bring his sons and put tunics on them. 9 And you shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and put the hats on them. The priesthood shall be theirs for a perpetual statute. So you shall consecrate Aaron and his sons.

⁵ And **I** said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.”

Notes:

V5-7– Christ challenges us as our High Priest!

‘turban’ – symbol of the High Priest (Exo. 29:7-9).

So they put a clean turban on his head, and they

put the clothes on him. And the

Angel of the LORD stood by.

Scriptures:

⁶ Then the Angel of the LORD  admonished Joshua,

Notes:

H5749 - to admonish
v. — to warn or
counsel in terms of
someone's behavior.


saying,

Scriptures:

Numbers 12:7 - Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house.

Hebrews 3:1-6 - Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, 2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house. 3 For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. 5 And Moses indeed was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken afterward, 6 but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

Deuteronomy 17:9 - And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment.

Deuteronomy 17:12 - Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.

7 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘If you will walk in

My ways, and if you will keep My command, then

you shall also judge My house, and likewise

H1777 – rule - to govern
⇒ judge v. – to govern,
understood in terms of
the ruler’s role of judging
his people.

have charge of My courts; I will give you places to

H8104 – to take
care of

walk among these who stand here.

Notes:

‘My house’ – in this context refers to God’s people ([Num. 12:7](#)). The same idea is used for the church ([Heb. 3:6](#)).

Three rewards are promised to Joshua

‘Judge My house’ – ([Deut. 17:9; 12](#))

‘My courts’ = the rebuilt temple of God.

‘those who stand here’ – the scene appears to be in heaven.

“I will give you places...” – may refer to a promise of reward in heaven in the form of places of service before the Lord.

The rewards are conditional upon Joshua walking in God’s ways and keeping His commands.

“Our pardon and justification are free gifts from our Lord, but the honor and privilege of future reward, which Joshua is promised here three times, are directly conditioned on obedience and faithfulness here and now.” (Kaiser, 1992) page 334

Scriptures:

Isaiah 42:1 -

Behold! My Servant
whom I uphold,
My Elect One in whom
My soul delights!
I have put My Spirit upon
Him;
He will bring forth justice
to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 11:1 -

There shall come forth a
Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow
out of his roots.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 -

Behold, the days are
coming," says the LORD,
"That I will raise to David
a Branch of righteousness;
A King shall reign and
prosper,
And execute judgment
and righteousness in the
earth.

6 In His days Judah will
be saved,
And Israel will dwell
safely;
Now this is His name by
which He will be called:

THE LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS

Zechariah 6:12a -

Then speak to him, saying,
'Thus says the LORD of
hosts, saying:

"Behold, the Man whose
name is the BRANCH!

Isaiah 4:2 -

In that day the Branch of
the LORD shall be beautiful
and glorious;

And the fruit of the earth
shall be excellent and
appealing

For those of Israel who
have escaped.

8 'Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your

companions who sit before you, for they are

a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth

H4159 – miracle,
sign, wonder

My Servant the BRANCH.

H5650 -

H6780 -

Notes:

V5-7- Christ delivers us as our High Priest!

'wondrous sign' = example of God's mercy and grace.

'My Servant' – (Isa. 42:1) – This title appears many times referring to the Messiah.

'Branch' – (Isa. 11:1; Jer. 23:5-6) – Occurs four times in the Old Testament with different presentations of the Messiah, each corresponding to the gospel presentation of Christ.

Matthew – Christ the King –
Jeremiah 23:5

Mark – Christ the Servant –
Zechariah 3:8

Luke – Christ the Man – Zechariah 6:12

John – Christ the Son of God – Isaiah 4:2

Scriptures:

Psalms 118:22 -

The stone which the
builders rejected
Has become the chief
cornerstone.

Zechariah 4:10 - For who
has despised the day of
small things?

For these seven rejoice
to see

The plumb line in the
hand of Zerubbabel.

They are the eyes of the
LORD,

Which scan to and fro
throughout the whole
earth.

Revelation 5:6 - And I
looked, and behold, in the
midst of the throne and of
the four living creatures,
and in the midst of the
elders, stood a Lamb as
though it had been slain,
having seven horns and
seven eyes, which are the
seven Spirits of God sent
out into all the earth.

Jeremiah 50:20 - In those
days and in that time," says
the LORD,

"The iniquity of Israel
shall be sought, but there
shall be none;

And the sins of Judah,
but they shall not be found;

For I will pardon those
whom I preserve.

Romans 11:26-27 - And so
all Israel will be saved, as it
is written:

"The Deliverer will come
out of Zion,

And He will turn away
ungodliness from Jacob;

27 For this is My
covenant with them,

When I take away their
sins."

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.

⁹ For behold, the stone that I have laid before

H68 -

Notes:

'the stone' – (Psa. 118:22) = Christ.

'seven eyes' – symbolic of God's
omniscience (Zech. 4:10; Rev. 5:6).

'I will remove the iniquity...' – (Jer.
50:20) – Pointing to the day of
national repentance of Israel (Rom.
11:26-27) which will take place at
the Second Coming of Christ (Zech.
12:10).

'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.

Joshua: upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I

will engrave its inscription,' says the

LORD of hosts, 'And I will remove ~~the~~ iniquity of

H5771 - sin

that land in one day.

Scriptures:

Micah 4:4 -

But everyone shall sit
under his vine and under
his fig tree,

And no one shall make
them afraid;

For the mouth of the
LORD of hosts has spoken.

¹⁰ In that day, says the LORD of hosts, 'Everyone

will invite his neighbor under his vine and under

his fig tree.' "

Notes:

'Everyone...' – (Mic. 4:4)

"There can be no such prosperity
and peace for Israel until the
messianic kingdom has fully come on
earth, no such kingdom until Israel is
restored, and no true restoration of
Israel until the Lord returns to the
earth with His saints." (Barker, 2008)
page 758

This is a picture of contentment and
happiness. That will be the reality of
the Millennium.

The name Joshua translated into
Greek is Jesus. 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.

[Top of section](#) [Top of chapter](#)