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Zechariah 3

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Zechariah 3.

Topics.

- Satan stands at Joshua the high priest right hand to accuse him.
 - Joshua stands before the Angel of the LORD, in filthy garments.
 - If Joshua, walks in God's ways he will rule God's House.
 - On a stone with seven eyes, God will engrave, "I will remove iniquity."
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FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

The following introduction is quiet long, but it does help understand the the background of Zechariah, (to skip the introduction scroll down to Zechariah chapter one). As Haggai encouraged the returned Jewish exiles to rebuild the Temple, Zechariah encouraged them to repent and renew their covenant with God. Such spiritual renewal would be necessary for the people to be ready to worship God once the Temple was rebuilt (about 515 B.C.). Zechariah accused them of doing the very things their ancestors had done before the exile. He was concerned about social justice for widows, orphans, and foreigners. As the people endured opposition from the non-Jewish inhabitants of Judea, Zechariah reassured them of God's abiding comfort and care and that He would continue his covenant with Israel. The Messianic hope was rekindled during Zechariah's ministry by the ordination of Joshua as priest and Zerubbabel as governor. From Zechariah chapter one through to the end there is a beautiful message of comfort and encouragement for the people of Israel during the era of Zechariah and for those who are rebuilding the temporal Temple of God, but as the visions progress through the chapters the focus slowly shifts from the era of Zechariah and transcends time to a future age where God is building an eternal Temple in the Lord Jesus Christ. The visions then progress to Jesus returning in glory and climax's in the final chapter with Christ reigning from Jerusalem as King over the entire earth and ends with the promise that the Lord would establish his rule over all the earth (Zechariah 14:9).

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The historical background: twenty years after untied Israel returned from their seventy years in captivity to Babylon, the Temple was still a blackened ruin and the discouraged people did not see how it could be restored. At this critical moment God raised up the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the Jews to rebuild the Temple. The prophecies of the two men were delivered almost at the same time. Zechariah gives a series of eight symbolic night-visions, to encourage the Israelites to complete the Temple.

ZECHARIAH 3:1-2

Satan stands at Joshua the High Priest right hand to Accuse Him.

- **Zechariah 3:1-2:** Then he showed me (Zechariah) Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ²And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this (Joshua) a brand plucked from the fire?"

All the following are personified in the Bible as Satan:

- Every self-condemning thought the faithful hear in their minds.
- Whoever makes the faithful feel unworthy whether it is a family member, a friend or a stranger.
- Any nation, kingdom or organisation that is against God and his will.
- The spirit of humanity that is against God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- All who aggressively persecute those who belong to God's Kingdom.

For further information see the title:

- Satan in, "Satan and his Family" (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The angel reveals to Zechariah that Joshua the priest feels unworthy as a priest to be standing before the LORD. In this vision Satan represents all the unseen self-condemning thoughts Joshua, being a high priest has about himself. He feels he is standing before the LORD in filthy garments and is unclean and unworthy before the LORD, but the LORD rebukes Satan and tells him, Joshua is a man who has gone through tremendous adversity, but the LORD has chosen him. The LORD is telling Zechariah to tell Joshua to stop condemning himself, because the LORD not only counts him worthy, but has actually chosen him. There are many Christians today who do not fully understand the enormity of God's grace that comes to us through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and because of this they feel the same way as Joshua does. To be a Christian and constantly condemn or mentally beat yourself up because of weaknesses or flaws of the flesh (human nature) will eventually destroy you and certainly rob you of the abundant life God wants you to experience in Christ.

In the book of Proverbs, it is written:

- Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? (Eccles. 7:16).

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And the apostle John says:

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

ZECHARIAH 3:3-5

Joshua Stands before the Angel of the LORD with Filthy Garments.

- **Zechariah 3:3-5:** Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. ⁴And the angel said to those who were standing before him, "Remove the filthy garments from him." And to him he said, "Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments." ⁵And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by.

This is absolutely beautiful, Joshua loved the LORD, but felt unclean and unworthy and God comes to him through a vision given to Zechariah and tells him, "Joshua to my eyes you are clean," I will cloth you with pure garments. This is exactly how every faithful Christian should see themselves in Christ, we will never be pure or clean by our own efforts, but through faith in Christ God has freed us from our sins by the blood of Christ.

- Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn (resurrected to eternal life) of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him (Christ) who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. (Rev. 1:5).

- I (John) said to him (the angel), "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. (Rev. 7:14).

They have washed their robes: does not mean they have overcome all sin, the angel says, they became clean through the blood of Christ, meaning they had faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, his death and his resurrection.

ZECHARIAH 3:6-7

If Joshua, Walks in God's ways He will Rule God's House.

- **Zechariah 3:6-7:** And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, ⁷"Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.

After the angel of the LORD exalts Joshua and tells him he is pure before the LORD, he is told to walk in the ways of the LORD and then he will continue to rule God's House and His people.

It is a biblical principal that to be in a position of leadership before God a certain standard is required for the following two reasons.

1. It is a privilege and honour to serve the LORD.
2. Leaders and teachers have a great influence over multitudes of people.

This does not necessarily mean that if a leader falls from that standard they are called to lose their salvation, but in most cases it will almost always mean that they will have to step down from the position they hold as a leader or teacher, but in most cases they will still be saved.

ZECHARIAH 3:8-10

God will Engrave on a Stone with Seven Eyes.

- **Zechariah 3:8-10:** Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. ⁹For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. ¹⁰In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree."

Joshua and his friends (probably priests) are a sign, to the coming Servant-Branch (Israel's Messiah), they are a sign to the nation because in a single day God has made Joshua clean (and probably his friends with him) and exalted him to the position of high priest.

On a single stone: brings our minds to Mount Sinai when the LORD engraved Ten Laws on another stone, but on this new stone God is engraving only the words, "I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day." The following verses show that the stone with seven eyes speak of the Spirit of God and of the law of the LORD:

- Between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth ----NOW GO TO VERSE NINE -----
⁹And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 5:6-9).

The stone speaks of the Law of the LORD, whereas the seven eyes speak of the Spirit of God's grace and mercy over the stone (i.e. clothing it). The angel of the LORD tells Zechariah, in a single day the LORD will remove the iniquity of the entire nation of Israel then everyone will invite their neighbour regardless of nationality to join them in their faith, obviously this vision of Zechariah's applied to his era and the prosperous time they had after the Temple was rebuilt and their faith renewed, but it is also an echo of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the ultimate 'Servant-Branch' who was to come and who in a single day on the bloodstained cross of Calvary made it possible for not only Israel but for the entire world to be washed, cleansed and stand pure before God.

- Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16).

This means that for everyone who believes, regardless of nationality God in a single day engraved in the bleeding and out-stretched hands of Jesus the words, "Today you are forgiven" and all those who are forgiven are as Zechariah saw in his vision inviting their neighbour to come under the Lord's vine and under his fig tree (symbols of spiritual shelter and blessing).

NOTICE: witnessing according to Zechariah's vision is an invitation, not a forceful, imposing emotional or manipulative speech. Christ's death and resurrection is like an open invitation card friends receive when invited to attend a wedding, all they have to do is fill out the RSVP and show up. God though Christ is inviting everyone to the Greatest Wedding this world will ever see all they have to do to attend is fill out the RSVP and show up.

VISIONS

A vision can relate to a spectacle gazed at by the eyes or a movie played out in the mind. Sometimes the same biblical event or experience is spoken of as an actual and real event, while at other times the same event maybe recorded as a vision (an image or mental experience within the mind). A biblical vision communicates the God's will or future events and is always under God's control. It can appear as a movie played out on the screen of the imagination of the mind (similar to a dream) or it may appear as a hologram appearing in the air that is actually seen by the eyes of whoever God chooses to give the vision to. Those who have had such a vision tell the vision to the people, sometimes in their own words and at other times in the exact words that God has spoken to them in the vision. For further information see the title:

- Visions and Prophecy.
- In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
