

Zechariah Chapter 3 Verses 1- 5 "The Vision of the High Priest." Sunday November 10th 2024

Frank G Warburton / General

Zechariah / Zechariah 3

Last time in Zechariah we looked at Chapter 2:10-13

As we began our study, we discussed prophecies that have a dual fulfillment. Meaning a short term and a long term fulfillment.

[Zechariah 2:10](#) “10 “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the Lord.”

Zechariah Chapter 2 Verse 10 has incredible prophetic implications regarding JESUS’S

1. First Coming
2. The Rapture
3. Second Coming/Millennial Kingdom

Last time we looked at how the Gospels of Matthew and Luke give us the genealogy of JESUS showing that HE is the descendant of Abraham; David and Adam.

The genealogy of the Gospel of JOHN shows us that JESUS has existed Eternally. (John Chapter 1:1, 14.)

JESUS, who is the WORD and was with and is GOD. Yet he humbled HIMSELF to become one of us. (Explain)

JESUS then began HIS public ministry at thirty years of age. Many times, after HE performed a miracle; the crowd tried to take and make HIM a King by force. But JESUS would not allow it; until HIS time had come on what we celebrate as Palm Sunday. HE was showing that HE had come to dwell with HIS people. We know that they cried out on Palm Sunday; “Hosanna to the Son of David.”

Hosanna means to “Save, now.” But three days later the crowds turned and cried out; “To Crucify Him.” The crowds were looking for a political Savior and not a Spiritual Savior.”

The second fulfillment of [Zechariah 2:10](#) is the Rapture. JESUS have HIS Crucifixion and Resurrection went back to Heaven to prepare a place for us. HE is coming back for us as well as it is written in [1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#).

(Explain the difference between the Rapture and the Second Coming.)

Just as there were prophecies pointing to JESUS first coming; we are seeing the pieces of the puzzle being put into place regarding HIS Second Coming. HE will physically return to Earth and dwell with us and rule for a literal 1,000 years.

We also talked about a fourth way that JESUS would come to dwell with us and that is at the moment of Salvation. (Explain)

In [Zechariah 2:11](#) we read how many nations would be joined to the LORD. This is a reference to gentile nations;(us.) We also saw a reference to the Trinity or Tri-UNE nature of GOD.

Let's continue our Study through Zechariah

[Zechariah 3:1-5](#)

"1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.

2 And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?"

3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

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 clothe you with rich robes."

5 And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by."

[Zechariah 3:1](#)

"1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him."

As Chapter 3 begins commentators believe that GOD HIMSELF revealed this vision to Zechariah; because the attending angel is not present.

This Joshua is obviously not the Joshua of the Book Of Joshua.

[Ezra 3:8](#) Tells us that Joshua is the high Priest. In Ezra its Jeshua. We are told he returned with Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem.

Commentators are unsure if this vision is judicial in scope or priestly service.

The phrase "standing before the LORD," refers to a place of service. It seems that the vision starts with Joshua's priestly service and then shifts to more of a judicial court room setting.

The Angel of LORD as we have seen the previous visions is none other than JESUS.

Satan means adversary or accuser. He is seen in this vision at the right hand of the Angel of the LORD—JESUS.

Here is how the court room is laid out:

The Judge: GOD THE FATHER

Satan: the prosecuting attorney

JESUS: the defense attorney OUR Advocate

[1 John 2:1-2](#)

“1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

Joshua the High Priest represents the defendant, as himself. He also represents the Nation of Israel and the Believer.

The right hand is the symbol of authority.

(Describe Joseph bringing Ephraim [the younger] and Manasseh to be blessed by Jacob in [Genesis 48](#).)

An example found in the New Testament regarding the right hand as a symbol of authority; involving Stephen is found in:

[Acts 7:55-56](#)

“55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

56 and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!””

Whenever JESUS is described in heaven; HE is always at the right hand of God the FATHER. HE submits to will of the Father.

Satan at the right hand of the Angel of the LORD; shows that Satan is subject to the authority of JESUS.

(Describe the two mistakes that people make about Satan)

There are two chapters in the Bible that describe who Satan is; Isaiah Chapter 14 and Ezekiel Chapter 28.

In [Isaiah 14: 12-17](#) the passage focuses on the fall of Lucifer who is Satan.

[Isaiah 14:13-14](#) are the five “I will” statements of Lucifer.

[Isaiah 14:13-14](#)

“13 For you have said in your heart:

* ‘I will ascend into heaven,

*I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

*I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

14 *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

*I will be like the Most High.”

[Ezekiel 28](#) begins with the LORD making a proclamation of judgement against the King of Tyre.

In [Ezekiel 28:11-19](#) the person being addressed.

[Ezekiel 28:11-13](#)

“11 Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

12 “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.”

It is impossible for the King of Tyre who lived approximately 2,500-3000 years after the creation to have been in the Garden of Eden.

Satan and God are not equals. It is a question of who is going to win. Satan is a created being; who can only do what GOD allows him to do.

Contrast the pride of Satan with the humbleness of JESUS. While Isaiah records the five “I will Statements of Satan; the Gospel of John records the seven “I am” statements of JESUS.

“I am the bread of life.” [John 6: 35, 41, 48](#) and [51](#)

“I am the Light of the world.” [John 8:12](#) and [9:5](#)

“I am the Door.” [John 10:7](#) and [9](#)

“I am the Good Shepherd.” [John 10:11](#) and [14](#)

“I am the Resurrection and the Life.” [John 11:25](#).

“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” [John 14:6](#).

“I am the True Vine.” [John 15: 1, 5](#).

There are two more I am statements in John’s Gospel where JESUS claims equality with the Father.

[John 8:58](#) and in the Garden of Gethsemane [John 18:4-5](#).

If you want to compare equals, Michael the Archangel would be equal to Satan.

[Zechariah 3:1](#)

“1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.”

Back to the courtroom:

GOD the FATHER is not a judge yearning to punish. JESUS is not begging the FATHER to go easy on us.

Satan has access to GOD’s throne room and is there to accuse us also. We know this from the book of Job.

[Job 1:6–7](#)

“6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. 7 And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?” So, Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”” and

[Zechariah 3:2](#)

“2 And the Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?””

(Talk about Churches that engage in Spiritual warfare about rebuking the devil and speaking evil of dignitaries.)

[Jude 8–9](#)

“8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!””

Michael the archangel an equal to Satan did not revile or accuse him; but submitted to the authority of the LORD.

Sadly, today in our culture and the world; there is an increased curiosity regarding Satan and the Occult. (Describe television show from Friday night.)

If Satan is knocking at your door to tempt you. Don’t open that door; let JESUS open it and deal with him.

Once again in [Zechariah 3:2](#); the LORD has chosen Jerusalem. HE has even put HIS name on Jerusalem. (Describe the letter SHIN)

Israel is the brand plucked from the fire. The nation of Israel has been afflicted through the fires of persecution. HE is using the persecution to purify them; to make them Holy.

(Describe Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego in [Daniel 3](#).)

The final fire of judgement that Israel will go through is known as the “Time of Jacob’s trouble.” We know this as the Seven Year Tribulation and the last half which is the Great Tribulation.

[Zechariah 3:3](#)

“3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.”

Turn to [Exodus 28](#).

The High Priest’s clothes were always to be clean — never dirty or filthy.

God told Moses how the Priest’s garments were to be made.

[Exodus 28:39–43](#) “39 “You shall skillfully weave the tunic of fine linen thread, you shall make the turban of fine linen, and you shall make the sash of woven work.

40 “For Aaron’s sons you shall make tunics, and you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty.

41 So you shall put them on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests.

42 And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs.

43 They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they come into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy place, that they do not incur iniquity and die. It shall be a statute forever to him and his descendants after him.”

Turn to [Exodus 30: 19-21](#)

God also gave Moses directions of the construction of a laver for the priest to wash in. (Made of Bronze — explain bronze.)

[Exodus 30:19–21](#) “19 for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it.

20 When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the Lord, they shall wash with water, lest they die.

21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations.””

GOD was using the clothes of the Priest and the laver to show that HE is HOLY cannot have any sin in HIS presence.

Joshua is symbolizing the sins of rebellion and idolatry; of the Nation of and is also a symbolic of us.

The word used to describe filthy here means the worst kind of defilement. Or clothes covered in excrement.

God through Isaiah uses similar language to describe what GOD thinks when we try to approach Him on the basis of our “good works.”

[Isaiah 64:6](#)

“6 But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags.” The word for filthy in this verse refers to used menstrual cloths.

Back to the Court Room

GOD the FATHER is the perfect judge. HE must punish sin.

When Satan goes before the FATHER and accuses (Frank, which is accurate)

GOD demands perfect justice. HE has said in HIS word that HE will pay us our wages.

[Romans 6:23](#) “23 For the wages of sin is death.”

This is starting to get very serious for all of humanity. If the story ended here; there would be no hope for any of us.

[Zechariah 3:4](#)

“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 clothe you with rich robes.””

(Talk about the Great Exchange and the forgiveness of our sin.)

[Colossians 2:14](#)

“14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

And then the mercy and grace of GOD completes [Romans 6:23](#).

[Romans 6:23](#)

“23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Back to the Courtroom:

For the Believer in JESUS,

GOD the FATHER is not a judge yearning to punish. JESUS is not begging the FATHER to go easy on us.

Satan has access to GOD’s throne room and is there to accuse us also.

GOD the FATHER is the perfect judge. HE must punish sin.

When Satan goes before the FATHER and accuses us; which is accurate.

GOD demands perfect justice. The penalty for sin must be paid. Satan challenges GOD to keep HIS word and judge the sin.

At this point JESUS, the defense attorney; our Advocate; steps forward and says, “I lived the sinless life. I have perfectly kept your law. This person has received ME; his or her debt is paid.

GOD the FATHER, the Judge brings down the gavel and says case dismissed.

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#) “21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

[Romans 8:1](#)

“1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

[Romans 8:33–34](#) “33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.

34 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.”

Back to

[Zechariah 3:5](#)

“5 And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by.”

The High Priest wore a turban on his head and the reason for this is found in Exodus Chapter 28.

[Exodus 28:36, 38](#)

“36 “You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD

38 So it shall be on Aaron’s forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things which the children of Israel hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the Lord.”

Warren Wiersbe wrote, “Satan cannot accuse us, nor GOD condemn us for sins for which Christ died.

When a person turns from their sin and receives the payment that JESUS paid on the cross by Faith. They will always be accepted before the LORD.