

ZECHARIAH

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KFIR WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY - SESSION 3
CHAPTER 3



QUICK REVIEW

We are now coming to the 4th Vision. The first three visions pictured Israel's external deliverance from Captivity, her expansion, and the material prosperity of the land.

Now, God is focusing on the internal state of Israel, which is in need of cleansing from sin and reinstatement as a priestly nation and a light to the world.

This vision is a bit different from the others in that there are no questions about it from Zechariah, or explanations by the angel.

The characters are identifiable and used symbolically. We see Joshua, who is representing the nation of Israel; the Angel of the Lord; Satan, the accuser; the attending angels; and Zechariah, who becomes a vocal participant in the vision.

God then confirms that this vision was symbolic of "things to come" for Israel at a future time when Messiah would come. God says, "I am going to bring My servant, the Branch the Stone and I will remove the sin of the land in a single day" (vv. 8-9).

CHAPTER 3

VISION OF THE HIGH PRIEST

3 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.

COMMENTS

"Satan must have been pointing to those [filthy clothes] and declaring forcefully that Joshua was unfit to stand before the Lord in this office." (Boice)

The name **Satan** literally means *adversary* or *opponent*. He is the accuser of the brethren. The only thing worse than having Satan as an adversary is to have him as a friend.

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?"

COMMENTS

Jude 1:9 tells us that Michael the archangel used this same phrase in battling against Satan. The example here of the Angel of the LORD and of Michael shows us a model for spiritual warfare - that we always should battle with the LORD's authority. In His authority we fight *from* a place of victory, more than fighting for victory.

With this phrase, God reinforced the important standing of **Jerusalem** in His eyes.

We too are brands rescued from the fire ... "Such is the divine economy, that God makes much of brands, fragments, castaways. What others regard as unworthy of their heed is dear and priceless to the great Lover of souls." (Meyer)

When John Wesley was only six years old, he was trapped in a burning house and was only rescued when one neighbor climbed on another's shoulders and pulled him out of window. A picture of the scene was drawn for Wesley and he kept the drawing until he died, and wrote under it Zechariah 3:2: *Is this not a brand plucked from the burning?*





BRANCHES

- Grafted In
- He is the Vine and we are the Branches
- Pruned - so that we can bear much fruit
- ̣But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ̤to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ̥to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ̦For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1

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.

COMMENTS

The Hebrew word translated **filthy** is "the strongest expression in the Hebrew language for filth of the most vile and loathsome character"

But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, **Isaiah 64:6**

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; **Romans 3:10**

THE COMING BRANCH

⁶ Then the Angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying, 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 have charge of My courts;
I will give you places to walk
Among these who stand here.

COMMENTS

Where can we find the answers to what it means to walk in the ways of God?

Micah 4:2. Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths " For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Psalms 128:1 How blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.

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 My Servant the BRANCH.**

COMMENTS

The term **Branch** is used several times as a title for the Messiah (Isaiah 4:2 and 11:1, Jeremiah 23:5). The **BRANCH** is associated with fruitfulness and life. Jesus used the same image when He said that He was the vine and we are the branches (John 15:5).

"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. **Jeremiah 23**

⁹ For behold, the stone
That I have laid before 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 that land in one day.

COMMENTS

Acts 4:11 He is 'the stone you builders rejected

Early Christians saw the engraving on the stone to be a picture of Jesus' wounds.
The engraving could also be a mark of identification or beautification.

In one day ... points to Calvary!

¹⁰ In that day,' says the Lord of hosts,
'Everyone will invite his neighbor
Under his vine and under his fig tree.' "

COMMENTS

This is a proverbial expression that means prosperity and peace (1 Kings 4:25). Ultimately, this is the peace that the reign of the Messiah brings.

²⁵ And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon. **1 Kings 4:25**

DISCUSSION

- 1. What does it mean to you to 'walk in His ways?'
- 2. How does Satan oppose us today?
- 3. How do we stay clean today and how do we put on Jesus' robe of righteousness?



KFIR

DAILY PSALM
DAILY BIBLE READINGS
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If you know anyone who would be interested in joining our KFIR Global Community, please send them to our website to get signed up. We have had great growth this year but believe God wants to continue growing this Group that seeks to be devoted to the WORD, to PRAYER and to be like the sons of ISSACHAR, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do!