

A Brand from the Burning (Zechariah 3:1–10)

Zechariah and Haggai were called by God to deliver His messages to Jews living in Jerusalem in 520 B.C. The residents of Jerusalem had the daunting task of rebuilding their city which was destroyed by the Babylonian army in 586 B.C. Haggai made clear that they had made progress in building increasingly comfortable homes for themselves, but had not begun rebuilding God's temple (Haggai 1:4). God called the Jewish people to repentance, faith, and obedience through messages presented by Haggai and Zechariah.

Zechariah received eight visions from God in one night (1:8-6:8). These visions were designed to stimulate hope and to provoke the Jewish people to obey God. The first three visions stressed that: (1) God had not abandoned the Jewish people (1:7-17); (2) He will judge the Gentile nations that were oppressing Israel at some point in the future (1:18-21); and (3) God will return to reside among His people, resulting in great blessings for Jerusalem at some future time (2:1-13).

Zechariah's fourth vision is recorded in chapter three. It deals with the dilemma faced by a holy God who desires to bring the blessings promised in the first three visions to a sinful people. How can a holy God bless a wicked and rebellious people? This vision revealed that Israel will be cleansed of its sin and reestablished as "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" for God (Exodus 19:6).

1. The vision opens with a court room scene (v. 1). From information provided, identify:
 - a. The Judge - _____
 - b. The defendant - _____
 - c. The prosecuting attorney - _____
2. Zechariah identified one person he saw in this vision as "the angel of the LORD" (v. 1). This expression is used frequently in the Old Testament (cf. Exodus 3:2; 14:19; Judges 2:1, 4; 13:3; Zechariah 1:11-12). What evidence can you find that enables you to identify "the angel of the LORD" in this vision? (vv. 1-2)
3. The devil appeared in this vision and engaged in his normal activity. He is frequently called *Satan* in the Old Testament. This title means *adversary*. Whenever this title describes him it has a definite article ("the Satan"), identifying him as *the adversary*. Satan has made a career of opposing God and accusing God's people (Job 1:6-7; Revelation 12:10). Satan's purpose in this vision was "to accuse" (*act as an adversary* toward) Joshua (v. 1). What indictment do you think Satan brought against Joshua? (vv. 2-5)
4. How did the Judge respond to Satan's accusations in this courtroom drama? (v. 2)

Inductive Studies of Zechariah
Lesson Three

5. God commissioned Old Testament Israel to serve as witnesses to the Gentile nations that Jehovah is the only true God (Isaiah 43:10). If Joshua is symbolic of the Jewish people in this vision, what impact would his “filthy garments” have on the effectiveness of Israel’s testimony for Jehovah? (vv. 3-4)

6. Who acted to solve Joshua’s problem? What did he do? (v. 4)

7. What request did Zechariah make in response to the activity which occurred in the vision? (v. 5). What do you understand his request to mean?

8. The angel of the Lord promised Joshua that he would have the same access to God’s presence as the holy angels (“those who are standing here”) experience (vv. 6-7). The reading of the NASB text suggests that there are two prerequisites to such access and two results. However, the Hebrew text lists all four as prerequisites to access to God’s presence. What conditions did God place on the Jewish priests if they desired to enjoy unrestricted access to His presence and His blessings? (v. 7)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

9. What role did Joshua and the men who accompanied him play in the vision? (v. 8)

10. Zechariah’s fourth vision became clearly Messianic at this point. What descriptive identifications of Christ do you find in this vision? (vv. 8-9)
 - a. v. 8 (cf. Psalm 40:7-8; Isaiah 52:13; 53:11) - _____
 - b. v. 8 (cf. Isaiah 53:2) - _____
 - c. v. 9 (Isaiah 8:14; Daniel 2:34-35; Ephesians 2:20) - _____

11. What purposes will be fulfilled by the “Stone” Zechariah saw in the vision?
 - a. v. 9b –
 - b. v. 10 -