

Zechariah 3:1-7

Setting: We're in the midst of Zechariah's visions. Zechariah is a prophet that God brought back from Babylonia captivity, and he went through a lot of tragedy. He's in his 20's, so he's a young man yet. His city is destroyed, his temple is destroyed, but God is giving Zechariah these visions to say, "Don't give up hope. You are still my chosen people."

Vs1: "Joshua" means "Jehovah saves". So Joshua the high priest of Israel is standing the Lord's left, and on the Lord's right is Satan, the right side or right hand is the strong side. Satan is there accusing Joshua of sins before the Lord. That's what Satan is doing everyday, standing there before Christ, telling on us, telling the Lord how bad we are.

Vs2: The Lord has put His stamp on Jerusalem, that He owns it and no one else. Satan is trying to get ahold of Jerusalem so he can stop God's plan of putting His old ancient people back there. But the Lord tells Satan, you are wrong, Jerusalem belongs to me, and the Lord rebukes Satan for trying to get Jerusalem. "Plucking the brand out of the fire" means He's saving Jerusalem at the last moment.

Vs3: "filthy garments" means to stand before the Lord with excrement smeared all over your clothes, like he just walked out of the sewer and stood before the Lord.

Vs4: The Lord said, "take away the filthy garments" – you stink and you look bad. I, the Lord, will cloth you in clean garments. Our best efforts at being good on this earth is no better than Joshua standing before the Lord covered in feces, because of our own righteous acts. It's by grace and mercy that we get the new clothes, cleaned by God, not by our works. This is another picture of the salvation of Christ.

Isaiah 64:6: it doesn't matter how hard you work or how hard you try, you can't come to Christ except by His grace and mercy.

Galatians 2:21: Bookmark this scripture. Again, salvation comes by the grace of God, not by righteousness. This says if salvation is by works, then Christ died in vain, that we can get to heaven without Christ.

Zechariah 3:5: Don't only clean him up, but put this turban on his head, too. The clean clothes represent God's mercy, salvation, and grace. The turban means Joshua belongs to God.

Vs6: An angel gives Joshua a charge after cleaning him up. Listen to what I got to say. Now that you're cleaned up and owned by Me, the Lord, now that you're representing Me and you're back in Israel, let's try again. This is conditional, this second chance. Stand before the gentiles as an example, and I will honor you with all these blessings if you walk in my ways and obey my rules. God's telling Israel here, this is conditional for blessings, if you do as I say.

Exodus 19:5-6: if you obey me and keep my rules, you will be more blessed than any other people on the earth. God will make the Israelites priests, those who present God to the people. God got them out of captivity and out of the desert, away from all the other people, and made them special. Now most of the gentile world wants to wipe Israel off the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 7:6-7: Out of all the people of the earth, God chose Israel, although it was a very small nation, He chose them and delivered them from slavery to the strongest nation on the planet.

Deuteronomy 14:2: God shows the nation of Israel that they were chosen of God's free will.

Zechariah 3:7: God says if you listen to me and behave in this manner as I direct you, you will be blessed. But Israel didn't so God did not speak to them for 400 years. Then he spoke to Sarah and told her she'd have a son to name him John.