

Zechariah 3:1-10

{ The Vision of the Filthy Priest

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Setting of Zechariah

Exile and Return

- God's Contention against Israel Resulting in Exile
- Return from Exile to Re-establish Israel and Rebuild Temple

Zechariah's Visions

- Theme of Visions:
 - (Re)establishment of Jerusalem as Place Where God Dwells
 - Secondly: Judgment of The Nations

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Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, O Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments ⁴ And 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." ⁵ And 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.

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⁶ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ For 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. ¹⁰ In 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."

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The Filthy Priest

Setting and Characters (v. 1-3)

- Joshua the High Priest, Satan the Accuser, and the Angel of the Lord
- Rebuke of Satan
- The Case against Joshua: Filthy Garments and Iniquity

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The Filthy Priest

Action (v. 4-5)

- The Removal of Iniquity and the Clothing in Pure Garments

Command (v. 6-7)

- Right of Access to Rule God's Courts and House
- "Walk in My Ways and Keep My Charge" - Become Who You Are

The Promise (v. 8-9)

- Joshua and His Associates Become a Sign for the Coming Messianic Branch
- "Remove the Iniquity in a Single Day"

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The Filthy and the Pure Priest

The basis of this purification of Joshua and the basis of our justification is the same: the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messianic "Branch."

Two "Types" or Pictures:

- Joshua in his purity and High Priestly Service is a type of Christ, calling us to believe in Jesus Christ.
- Joshua in his filthiness, purification, and consecration for priestly service is a picture of our justification and subsequent sanctification.

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"The Gospel will receive you into its halls if you come as a sinner, nothing else. Don't wait until you are a better person, come at once. God justifies the ungodly and that takes you up now where you are; it meets you in your worst estate."

- Charles Spurgeon

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