

Zechariah 3:8-10

Setting: Zechariah is having visions about Israel. God is encouraging Israel at this time, after it has been pretty much destroyed and enslaved, and now everyone is free and coming back to rebuild. No nation in history has ever come back after being destroyed like the nation of Israel has. Israel is in the forefront of the news today, on television. We know that the world is not going to solve the Middle East problems, only God will do that.

Vs8: This Joshua is a religious high priest, sitting on a higher chair than the other men. He is respected and looked up to as teachers and a person of respect, as a person you could go to who will tell you the truth about God's program. The Branch is Jesus.

Isaiah 11:1...Isaiah prophesied about this branch, 700 years before the birth of Christ, 200 years before Zechariah is told about the branch that will come to the house of Isaiah.

Isaiah 42:1...here Isaiah says judgement will come to the gentiles. At that time, Gentiles were considered the vermin of the earth. But Isaiah is prophesizing about Jesus coming to bring judgment to the truth. Christ brought grace and mercy.

Zechariah 3:9...This stone has engravings, and seven eyes. We studied this stone in the book of Daniel that was built without hands. It grew and wiped away the bad image, and the stone is Jesus. It will smash all the gentile empires and blow them away. Christ will grow and consume the whole earth. The 7 eyes represent complete, and that Christ sees everything.

I Peter 2:1-9...

1...all you believers, you Christians, I want you to believe in Christ and get rid of all your old beliefs.

2...Desire the Word, desire to learn what God is telling us.

3...Anyone who reads, understands, and implements the lessons in the bible, you know what it's like to 'taste' the Lord. It brings a flavor to your life better than anything else on this planet.

4-5...We are priests in our right, that's our life; how we live everyday, how we treat our spouse, kids, co-workers, neighbors, and ourselves.

6...If you believe on Jesus Christ, the world will not confound you. You should not trip up.

7...It doesn't matter what man does to Jesus Christ as far as the earth goes. He is the chief cornerstone and He will never go away.

8...If they hate Christ and they don't like Him, then He becomes a stumbling block to those who don't like Him.

9... "peculiar people" means "people for possession by Christ." Live your life like you mean it, implementing the teachings of the bible. Slow to anger, help your fellow man, be honest, treat all others with respect, etc. People are watching you, and actions speak louder than words for your testimony.

Zechariah 3:9: Remember the crown of thorns and the marks they put on Jesus Christ when they crucified Him? These are the markings on the stone, the engravings. Jesus will save the nation of Israel in the darkest hour, when they are overwhelmed, and Jesus will come back and remove the iniquity, save it.

Vs10: this looks out into a time in the future, beyond our time right now, and it talks about the day Jesus comes back, re-establishes Israel, giving back all their land (which has not happened in all of history to this time), and they will have their possession like never before.