

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Kevin Olivier  
**Zechariah 3** – The Great Exchange

A. Some may be mistaken to say that a whole lot of what God the Holy Spirit told Zechariah to write down in his prophesy does not have much importance to us.

1. Since there is no longer a 2<sup>nd</sup> temple, the office of high priest has also passed away from Judaism. WSC 25 rightly says that “Christ executeth the office of priest in His once offering up of Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, & reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.”
2. **Rom 15:4** says **“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance & the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”**

B. Zechariah was both a prophet & priest who was among the captives who returned to the promised land from Babylon. He was a contemporary of Haggai yet ministered long after Haggai’s brief ministry.

1. In **v1**, the context is that Joshua the high priest is standing before the angel of the Lord.
3. → Turn to **Zech 4:8-10** for more context concerning the building of the 2<sup>nd</sup> temple after the exile.

Witness & receive the great exchange of God’s glorious salvation.	I. <u>REMOVAL OF FILTHY GARMENTS</u> II. <u>GIVING CLEAN, FESTAL GARMENTS</u>
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I. REMOVAL OF FILTHY GARMENTS

A. Notice 1<sup>st</sup> what Zechariah said about Joshua’s filthy garments. → look at **vv1-3**.

1. Joshua was not the only one bearing filthy garments.
  - a. Every other priest & high priest bore filthy garments as well in & of themselves.
  - b. This includes every other human being descending from Adam by natural generation.
2. Joshua was not the only one having Satan accusing him before the Lord.
  - a. The word **“Satan”** here can also be translated as **“Accuser.”**
  - b. Job also had Satan accusing him (**Job 1**).
  - c. Everyone not having saving faith in Christ, still has Satan accusing them before Lord.

B. Notice the Lord’s rebuke of Satan & His mercy on Joshua. → Look again at **v2**.

1. The word **“brand”** can also be translated a stick or log.
2. This imagery of logs in a fire is also common to the natural state of mankind apart from God’s grace.
  - a. Because our holy, Triune God cannot look upon sin, all men, women, & children— apart from grace— are all destined for hellfire.
  - b. By God’s grace, He plucks some from the fire.

C. The Lord said in **v4** more of His work of grace for Joshua. → Look at **v4**.

1. This points to the work of the Messiah who was still yet to come.
2. Zechariah foretold the coming Messiah, giving Him a very interesting name. → Look at **v8**.
  - a. **Isa 53:2** used this imagery to tell of humility: **“He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, & like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.”**
  - b. **Jer 23:4** calls him **“Branch”** in reference to His glorious, righteous reign: **“Behold, the days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; & He will reign as king & act wisely & do justice & righteousness in the land.”**
  - c. Getting back to **Zech 3**, the end of **v9** says how the Lord of host [armies of heaven] declares: **“... I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.”**

II. GIVING CLEAN, FESTAL GARMENTS. God does this for all who put their faith in Christ. → 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ of v4-5

A. It is not enough to have your sin removed. God demands a perfect righteousness— a perfect obedience according to Mat 5:48: **“You are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”**

1. We cannot merely have our slate wiped clean from those sins we have committed when He said, thou shall not transgress certain commands.
2. Jesus also said we must have a perfect righteousness when He said: **“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, & with all your soul, & with all your mind” (Mat 22:35f).**

B. If you confess Christ as your Savior & Lord & repent or turn from your sinful ways, God removes your filthy garments of sin & clothes you with clean festal robes.

1. Those glorious robes of righteousness are also foretold by Isa 61:10: **“I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, & as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”**
2. If you attempt to attend the glorious wedding feast of the Son of God without such a blessed garment of salvation, you will not be allowed to stay. Instead, you will be bound hand & foot & thrown into outer darkness (Mat 22:1-14).

C. Scripture says we must have the righteousness of another by means of faith:

1. → Turn to Phil 3:2-11

- a. By faith, you must be able to say like Paul, **“I am ‘found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but which is through faith in Christ.’”**  
- This is the great exchange: The Lord Jesus suffered & died for sin that was not His own in order to offer you a righteousness that is not your own.
- b. People are spiritually blind & unbelieving when they say, “I do not need faith in Jesus because I am a good person.” They reject Jesus the pearl of great price to instead hold onto a piece of rotting, putrid fruit.

2. Other key verses are 2 Cor 5:20-21 **“we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>He [the Father] made Him [His Son] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him [in the Lord Jesus Christ].”**

D. Some Roman Catholics make the claim that if this is the gospel, people can live any way that they want. This is not so according to vv6-7. Turn there.

Review, further application, & conclusion:

→ Turn to Rev 12:10-11