

A. Satan Accuses Us of our Guilt before God (3:1-2)

- a. Joshua shows up in filthy clothes and the Devil accuses him in front of God (see Job 1:6-7 for a similar passage).
- b. Who is Satan?
 - i. A being who fell from Heaven (Lk 10:18)
 - ii. A murderer and a liar (Jn 8:44)
 - iii. Disguised as an angel of light (2 Co 11:14)
 - iv. A roaring and devouring lion (1 Pe 5:8)
 - v. The serpent that deceives the world (Rev 12:9)
- c. Whom does he accuse?
 - i. The high priest, Joshua
 - ii. Human beings whom God created
 - iii. God Himself
- d. Why is the high priest dirty in this text?
 - i. He is a sinner.
 - ii. He represents the sin of the people.
- e. What do the dirty clothes signify?
 - i. Sin and the need for the high priest to cleanse himself (see Lev 16)
 - ii. Uncleanliness and impurity
- f. Why is Satan accusing Joshua?
 - i. Because he opposes God; the Devil is a liar (Jn 8:44).
 - ii. Because he is God’s adversary and opposes everything good.
- g. Satan accuses Joshua before God’s throne, he accuses us and he challenges God by presenting him with his high priest in filthy garments.

B. The Truth Is that We Are All Guilty (3:3-4)

- a. In and of ourselves, we don’t meet our holy God’s requirements. We are all guilty.
- b. Vv 3 and 4 confirm that Joshua is filthy.
 - i. A sinner like all of us
 - ii. Incapable of taking off his dirty clothes
- c. The human condition before God:
 - i. Satan’s accusations are accurate.
 - ii. We all are wearing filthy clothes.
 - iii. We are all sinners (Ro 3:23).
 - iv. We are lost in darkness (Mt 4:16).
 - v. We deserve God’s wrath (Jn 3:36; Eph 2:3).
- d. No one escapes the filthy clothes (Is 64:6).
- e. What do we do with the dirty clothes?
 - i. The truth is that we can’t do anything with the dirty clothes; we are unable to take them off and have no hope of doing so (Eph 2:11-12).

- C. Only Jesus Can Remove Our Guilt and Turn Aside Satan's Accusations (3:5-10)**
- a. The good news is that Jesus Christ takes off our filthy clothes.
 - b. This text clearly teaches that even in the OT, God would send his servant (3:8) to save his people.
 - c. What does the angel do with Joshua?
 - i. Takes off his filthy clothes (v 4).
 - ii. Takes away his iniquity (v 4).
 - iii. Puts a clean turban and new clothes on him (vv 4-5; cf Ex 28:4).
 - iv. Tells him to obey the Lord (vv 6-7).
 - d. What does Jesus do for us?
 - i. Takes away our sin (1 Jn 1:7).
 - ii. Makes us new creatures (2 Co 5:17).
 - iii. Destroys the work of the Devil (1 Jn 3:8)
 - iv. Enables us to obey him by the Holy Spirit (1 Jn 3:24)
 - v. Frees us from the coming wrath (Ro 5:9-10; 1 Thess 1:10)
 - e. The text points us to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Only he can remove the dirty clothes. That's the allusion to the Branch in v 8 (cf Jer 23:5).
 - f. How good our God is!
 - i. Despite our sins he loves us and forgives us.
 - ii. Despite our dirty clothes he redeems us.
 - iii. Despite the deserved coming wrath of God he rescues us.
 - iv. Despite everything he makes us co-heirs with Jesus.
 - g. Only Jesus can take off those filthy clothes (Tit 3:5).

Conclusion

- A. What do we learn from this text?
 - a. Satan accuses us before God but he is unsuccessful in his efforts.
 - b. The Devil's accusation has some merit: we all are wearing filthy clothes that we can't take off.
 - c. Only Christ's work can remove those filthy clothes and cleanse us.
 - d. Don't put those filthy clothes back on!
- B. What is our reaction?
 - a. When the Devil accuses us, we turn to our Advocate, Jesus. Satan is defeated (Rev 12:10)!
 - b. We express our profound gratitude to God for his love which we don't deserve.
 - c. That gratitude and love produces obedience through the Holy Spirit, which we share with others.
- C. Final thoughts
 - a. Zechariah looked forward to that day when Christ would come (3:8-10).
 - b. We look back on Jesus' life and look ahead to the Second Coming.
 - c. The Lord Jesus is the only one who can remove our sin and justify us before God. In Him is our only hope of being saved. Believe on him today and trust him. He is a great and mighty Savior.