



Zechariah and the Sharp Dressed Man

Zechariah 3:1-5

Background of the Prophet

- Zechariah - /zɛkə'raɪ.ə/; Hebrew: זְכַרְיָה, Modern Zekharya, “YHWH has remembered”; Greek: Ζαχαρίας Zakharias; Latin: Zacharias
- Priestly extraction, prophet of the two-tribe Kingdom of Judah, and the author of the Book of Zechariah.
- Iddo, his grandfather, was a priest and the head of a priestly family, and who also preached in the Chronicles. Berechiah was Zechariah’s father (Neh. 12:4)
- Zechariah’s ministry took place during the reign of Darius the Great (Zech. 1:1), and was contemporary with Haggai in post-exilic Judah. Zechariah is specific about dating his writing (520–518 BC).

Background of the Prophet

- In 538 BC, the famous Edict of Cyrus was released, and the first return took place under Sheshbazzar. After the death of Cyrus in 530 BC, Darius consolidated power and took office in 522 BC. Zerubbabel is appointed by Darius as governor over the district of Yehud Medinata.
- Two years later, Zechariah begins his book; centering the theme around rebuilding the temple and the nation of God's people.

Background of the Book

- Zechariah 1-8, referred to as First Zechariah, was written in 520 BC.
- Zechariah 9-14, considered Second Zechariah, was written two years later, and has no specific date associated with it.
- The return from exile is the premise of the visions in chapters 1–6.
- Chapters 7–8 address the quality of spiritual life God wants His people to experience, and contains many comforting promises to them.

Background of the Book

- Chapters 9–14 comprise two oracles of the future
 - The first oracle (ch. 9-11) gives an outline of God's providential plans for His people to the time of the coming of the Messiah.
 - The second oracle (ch. 12–14) points out the glories that await Israel in the final conflict and triumph of God's kingdom
- Zechariah's concern for purity in the temple, priesthood, and all areas of personal life is evident throughout the book. In this, he is very similar to the major prophet Isaiah.

Zechariah 3:1-5

- “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire? 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. 4 Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And to him He said, See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes. 5 And I said, Let them put a clean turban on his head. So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.”

The Stained Clothing Of Sin

- Joshua the high priest is a picture of every person lost in sin.
 - Zech. 3:3 - “Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.”
 - Isa. 64:6 - “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away”
 - Phil. 3:9 - “And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith”

The Stained Clothing Of Sin

- It is a hard truth to bear, but humankind is unclean in the sight of God.
 - Isa. 59:2 - “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”
 - Rom. 3:10, 23 - “As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one... 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

The Strange Clothing Of Self-Righteousness

- Only the salvation of the Lord can remove the dirt from our spiritual robes. We do not have the power to clean them ourselves, not can we cover up the stains
 - Zech. 3:4 - “Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And to him He said, See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”

The Strange Clothing Of Self-Righteousness

- Adam and Eve sought to cover their nakedness by garments of their own making
 - Gen. 3:7-8 - “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

The Strange Clothing Of Self-Righteousness

- God and His word see through all of that quite clearly, and He reveals us to ourselves
 - Heb. 4:12-13 - “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

The Strange Clothing Of Self-Righteousness

- In the Judgment, will there be no difference between the worst serial killer and the best member of the church, if the professed Christian errs from the faith. There will be no difference between the worst foaming-at-the-mouth atheist and the kindest, most moral person who does not obey the gospel

The Strange Clothing Of Self-Righteousness

- We need God to wash our clothes
 - Isa. 1:18 - “Come now, and let us reason together, Says the LORD, Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.”
 - Titus 3:5 - “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”

The Stunning Clothing Of Salvation

- God gave Joshua a new suit of clothes
 - Zech. 3:4-5 - “Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And to him He said, See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes. 5 And I said, Let them put a clean turban on his head. So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.”

The Stunning Clothing Of Salvation

- When God gives you new clothes...
 - It is like being born new and fresh
 - John 3:3, 7 - “Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again.”

The Stunning Clothing Of Salvation

- When God gives you new clothes...
 - It is like becoming a transformed being
 - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

The Stunning Clothing Of Salvation

- When God gives you new clothes...
 - It is like becoming a new person
 - Col. 3:10 - “And have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him”

The Stunning Clothing Of Salvation

- God takes away our old dirty clothes and gives us fresh, new ones
 - Isa. 61:10 - “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

The Stunning Clothing Of Salvation

- Rev. 7:13-17 - “Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from? 14 And I said to him, Sir, you know. So he said to me, These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

The Stunning Clothing Of Salvation

- God takes away our old dirty clothes and offers us fresh, new ones. But it is up to us to put them on!
 - Matt. 22:10-14 - “...So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”