

"The 8 Night Visions"

Part 4

Zechariah 1:7-6:15

Introduction: Today in our study of Zechariah we have come to chapter 3 where we shall see the 4th night vision. Each of the night visions carry a prophetic message for the nation of Israel.

1. The riders among the myrtle trees.

God cared about the Jews. They were troubled and, in a valley, while the rest of the world was at ease. God had words of comfort for them.

2. The four horns and the four carpenters.

The four Gentile powers that had and would chasten the Jews would be terrorized and, in the end, they would be completely destroyed. By the Stone made without hands.

3. The man with the measuring line.

God was going to bless Jerusalem with blessings far too great for the city to contain.

Now we come to the next night vision and this vision also has a special message for the struggling Jews.

"The Vision of the Cleansing of Joshua"

Zechariah 3:1-10

1. The Resistance.

Notice Zechariah 3:1

This is not the Joshua who led Israel into the promise land. This is a Joshua who returned from the captivity with the first group of Jews. He was the religious leader of his day. There were two significant men whom God would use.

Haggai 1:1

In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

Ezra 5:1-2

Then the prophets, Haggai the prophet, and Zechariah the son of Iddo, prophesied unto the Jews that were in Judah and Jerusalem in the name of the God of Israel, even unto them.

² *Then rose up Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and began to build the house of God which is at Jerusalem: and with them were the prophets of God helping them.*

Zerubbabel was the governor and Joshua was the high priest.

Notice Zechariah 3:1 again.

As Zechariah sees Joshua, he sees Satan standing by his right hand to resist him. The word "resist" can mean "to oppose" or "to accuse." Both of these meanings fit here, and both fit our lives as well.

Joshua would be the religious leader for the Jews so we can understand why Satan would resist him and why he would accuse him.

Application:

Let us understand that if you are not serious about your Christianity then you will see very little resistance. But the moment you decide to get serious then you are going to be opposed and resisted. The moment a man makes the choice to be the spiritual leader of his family as God has called him to do then you can be sure there will be great resistance. The moment you get involved in the church and start exercising your gifts you will meet resistance.

2 Timothy 3:10-12

¹⁰ *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,*

¹¹ *Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.*

¹² **Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**

John 15:20-21

²⁰ *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

²¹ *But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.*

Hebrews 11:35-38

³⁵ *Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

³⁶ *And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

³⁷ *They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented:*

³⁸ *(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

Notice Zechariah 3:2

The Lord rebuked Satan because He is the only One who can do so.

Jude 1:9

⁹ *Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.*

The Lord defended Joshua because he had been plucked from the fire. Not only Joshua but also Jerusalem. Jerusalem had been in the fire in Babylon and God plucked them out to save them from extinction. He also plucked Joshua from the fire, and He did so in order to use him for His service.

Application:

If you are saved, have you ever considered that God in His love has plucked you from the fires of hell and now, He fights your battles? Before you were saved you were but one breath away from an eternity in hell. God spared your life many times because He desired for you to be saved but at anytime you could have died and went straight to hell. He saved you so that He could work through you. He desires to be glorified in you.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Let me now get to the accuser of the brethren.

Revelation 12:9-10

⁹ *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

¹⁰ *And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

Satan accuses us before God at all times but there is also something else that our accuser does. He accuses God of not wanting the best for us.

Genesis 3:1-5

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

² *And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:*

³ *But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

⁴ *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

⁵ *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

His is one way in which Satan succeeds in keeping many believers from getting involved. He convinces them that serving God will rob them of joy. He accuses God of calling you to do something that will have no fulfillment. The believers who believe his lies will then stay away from commitment and live for the world thinking they will find contentment there.

2. The Cleansing.

Notice Zechariah 3:3

Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and therefore they needed to be changed out.

Application:

These filthy garments were a picture of the sin that Joshua needed to be cleansed of. Let me just remind you that if you are not saved this is your current condition in the eyes of the Lord. You are clothed with filthy garments and those garments are the good works which you try to use to cover up your sin.

Isaiah 64:6

⁶ *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

It is impossible for you to produce any works of righteousness.

Romans 6:20

²⁰ *For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.*

If you are not saved, then you are a servant of sin, and all your sin is wrapped around you as filthy rags. You must be cleansed of your sin if you want to have access into the presence of God.

Notice Zechariah 3:4

The filthy garments were removed from Joshua, and he was then clothed with clean garments.

Application:

This is a picture of what happens when a sinner gets saved. If you are not saved this is what God wants to do for you. If you will come to Jesus Christ and place your faith in His finished work upon the cross God will immediately remove your sin from your account.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³ *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;*

⁴ *And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*

When you come to Jesus let me show you what happens.

Psalms 103:11-12

¹¹ *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.*

¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Hebrews 8:12

¹² *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

God removes our sins, and He will never bring them up again!! But there is more.

Hebrews 9:14

¹⁴ *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

The weight you carry from sin will all be taken away. Then there is more.

Notice Zechariah 3:4 again.

Joshua was given clean clothing.

Application:

This is a picture of what happens to us the moment of salvation.

Romans 3:20-22

²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

²¹ *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*

²² *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*

This is justification. We are declared righteous because now we stand in the righteousness of God. He sees us as perfect!

Notice Zechariah 3:5

This new mitre upon his head had a saying on it that was very important.

Exodus 28:36-37

³⁶ *And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.*

³⁷ *And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be.*

Joshua was now holy to the Lord.

Application:

This is also true of us. We are to be holy as He is holy. That means set apart from all contaminations.

3. The potential.

Notice Zechariah 3:6-7

If Joshua would walk in the will of God, he would have access to God in the same way the angels do.

Application:

As believers we too have so much potential if we walk in the will of the Lord. We must be in the will of the Lord if we are going to see God's power flow through us.

Conclusion:

What did all of this mean to the Jews?

Just as Joshua would be placed into the priesthood so there is coming a day when God will restore Israel as a kingdom of priests.

Exodus 19:6

⁶ *And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*

Israel had failed at this but there is a day coming when they will fulfill God's plan for them to be a kingdom of priests.