

Bible Studies

Clean Garments for Joshua

Read Zechariah 3v1-10

This is one of a series of visions given to the prophet Zechariah. At first reading it may seem very strange and irrelevant. The goal of this study is to explain what this passage means and to give an example of how to understand some of the obscure OT passages.

Who are the three main characters?

Who was Joshua? Zechariah 6v11, Haggai 1v1
(Zechariah, Haggai, Ezra & Nehemiah all refer to the same period in time, the return from exile in Babylon.)

The High Priest is the representative of the people before God. What is done to the High Priest is symbolic of what is done to the people as a whole.

Does this passage deal exclusively with the characters of the time or does it have an ongoing significance? verse 8

Who do you think Joshua represents?

What is Satan doing?

Revelation 12:10
job 1v6-12

The idea here is of a court room with the accuser standing beside Joshua to bring charges against him. The angle of the LORD, later just called the LORD is the Judge. Satan in Hebrew is not a name, but a title, *lit* The Satan, the Accuser. Satan is still the accuser of the brethren. **In what way does he accuse us?**

Why is LORD written in capitals?

In the OT, LORD means that the Hebrew word being translated is Jehovah/YHWH. Lord in small letters translated Adonai.

What was the Lord response to Satan's accusation?

Jude v9

Do we have the authority to rebuke Satan?

I think it is highly significant that this formula is used by Michael, and even by God Himself. I would not go beyond it.

What does a stick snatched from the fire mean?

Amos 4v11
Matthew 12v20
Jude v23

Who does this relate to us?

What were Joshua's filthy cloths?

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
Isaiah 64:6

What was his rich garment?

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
Isaiah 61:10

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How does this relate to us?

Jesus gives a similar illustration when He taught the parable of the weeding feast Matthew 22v1-13

According to the Law it was forbidden for a priest to let his garments become unkempt, even in mourning he was forbidden to tear his robe or wear sack cloth. During mourning all personal hygiene took a holiday. Leviticus 21:10. He had ornate robes to wear, to discard them was to show disrespect for his calling.

How does this apply to us?

We need to keep our robe of righteousness in good condition by the way we live. When it gets dirty we need to wash it! 1 John 1v9

In verse 4 God gives the command to remove Joshua's dirty robes and to replace them with the priestly robes. "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you." This is what God has done for us. The robes represent the righteousness that God has given us in Christ Jesus.

*And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
Philippians 3:9*

*This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Romans 3:22
but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus
our Lord from the dead. Romans 4:24*

*Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Romans 10:4
God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of
God. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

What do we do to receive this righteousness?

Is this righteousness real or a fake?

What was the condition that Joshua had to keep? Verse 7

Does this apply to us?

Was this a condition of receiving righteousness or a result of it?

The next paragraph explains how this cleansing will come about. My Servant, the Branch and the Stone are all Messianic titles, *Isaiah 52v13, Isaiah 11v1-3, Isaiah 28v16*. They all refer to Christ. The *seven eyes* also find a reference in *Revelation 5v6*, again they refer to Christ, (Seven horns = complete strength, seven eyes = omniscience and omnipresence.)

Later in Zechariah 6v11-13, Joshua himself is established as a type of Jesus Christ, v13 is interesting for it states that Jesus would be both Priest and King, two role carefully separated in OT times.

On which day did God remove the sin from the land? Verse 9c

The invitation to sit under a vine is a recurring theme in the prophets. It symbolises peace, security, prosperity and freedom from oppression.

What is the overall picture Zechariah 3 paints?

Can this same method be applied to other OT passages?

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:27

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, John 5:39