

REVIEW: "Four Visions: Grace, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit" Lesson Three

So far in our Study of Zechariah we have examined the first three visions that God gave Zechariah: (1) the man riding a *red horse that stood among the myrtle trees*, (2) *the four horns and the four carpenters*, and (3) *the man with a measuring line in his hand*. However, God gave Zechariah a warning before he gave him those visions: Do not be like your fathers and those who lived before you who paid no attention to the prophets I sent to you. Listen to my word now! Turn away from your evil ways and turn to me!

In Lesson Three we looked into the next four visions that God gave Zechariah: (4) the High Priest Joshua and Satan; (5 & 6) the Branch and the Stone; (7) the Candlestick and the Two Olive Trees.

We have now studied seven of the ten visions that Zechariah had in one night in 520 BC. He did not dream these visions but was awake for each one. The purpose of all ten visions was to encourage the Jewish exiles by reminding that God is watching over them and they have a glorious future. Zechariah's visions will especially encourage their two leaders: Zerubbabel (Civil Government), and Joshua (High-Priest) who will lead the task of building the Temple amid stiff opposition. *Always remember that just as the LORD of hosts worked in the lives of the Jewish exiles and their leaders then, our God works in the lives of believers today; those who are in the Body of Christ.*

Now we are ready to continue looking at the visions the LORD gave Zechariah in Chapters three and four.

1. Zechariah's fourth vision of the High Priest Joshua and Satan

"And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel" (Zechariah 3:1-3).

In Revelation we read about the actions of Satan:

"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" (Revelation 12:10).

A. In the vision Zechariah saw Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD and Satan was standing next to him at his right hand. Because Satan is the "accuser of our brethren" we know he was present to bring charges against Joshua. Satan was ready to point out Jerusalem's sins of idolatry and their disobedience to the Law. He would jump at the chance to make Jerusalem's sins sound as bad as possible. Joshua would have had no defense because Satan's accusations would have been the truth. Jerusalem stood on the brink of being condemned under the wrath of the LORD.

*Let's stop for a moment to consider the response Satan receives **TODAY** against his accusations:*

"And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" (Colossians 2:13-14).

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Jesus Christ took the sting out of any charge Satan could bring against us to God the Father. The Father's wrath against our sin has been completely satisfied because the Father is satisfied with his Son's sacrifice on our behalf. Not one single charge that Satan can bring against us will be heard by God the Father. We should be very grateful!

B. Looking further into Zechariah's vision we read how the LORD referred to Jerusalem as a "brand plucked out of the fire" when he rebuked Satan. Jerusalem was guilty of idolatry and disobedience of the Law of Moses. They were hopelessly lost and deserving of being cast away as God's chosen people. But God chose to extend mercy and love and he forgave them as if their sins had never happened. They deserved the fire of judgment and its consequences, but God chose to remove them from the "fire" of his judgment and wrath and give them mercy instead. *God has chosen Jerusalem.* (God's chambers, where God will dwell: Gen 1:2; Ps 104:3; Heb 11:10 city; Rev 21:2-3)

"I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and **ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning**: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD" (Amos 4:11).

- a. As Joshua, the high priest of Jerusalem stood before the LORD he was clothed with filthy, foul garments that were stained with the sin of idolatry and disobedience. His clothing represented the state of Jerusalem *before* the LORD of hosts extended mercy. The LORD told those who stood before him to take away those filthy garments from Joshua because the LORD had removed the iniquities of Jerusalem. Those clothes were replaced with new clothes that were clean and free from iniquity; sin which is deeply rooted immoral behavior and is wickedness.

"And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, **I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment**" (Zechariah 3:4).

Let's pause to think about how we are like Joshua; how our garments are also filthy until we receive 'new garments' from Christ:

"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" (Isaiah 64:6).

We too were like a "brand plucked out of the fire" until God extended mercy to each of us through his Son Jesus... We receive our new clothes of righteousness the moment we believe by faith Paul's gospel given to him by the risen Christ:

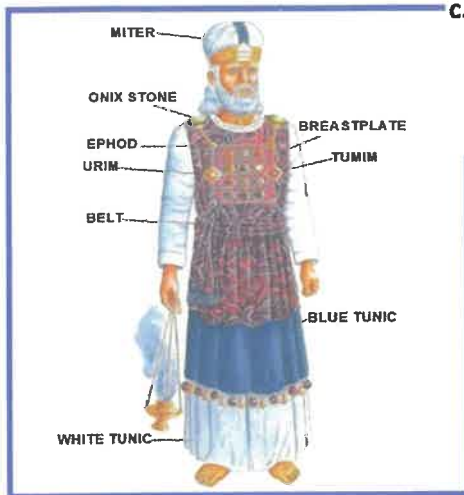


"Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand...how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures**" (1Corinthians 15:1, 3-4). And in Romans 3:22: **"Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for here is no difference"**.

Joshua's change of clothes includes his new head covering and the LORD's approval...

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- b. As the angel of the LORD stood by showing his approval, they placed a "fair mitre", or head covering much like a flat turban, upon Joshua's head. He was now reinstated into the office of high priest.



- c. **Note:** The angel of the LORD is also known as the Preincarnate Christ : who is Jesus Christ before he became flesh and came to earth as Messiah. "Carnate" means "to take on flesh" so 'preincarnate' means 'before God took on flesh'.

At the end of this vision the LORD protested, or solemnly affirmed, to Joshua that if he will obey the LORD and follow his commands then he will be used by the LORD to serve as high priest.

"And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among

these that stand by" (Zechariah 3:6-7).

A portion of verse 7 is difficult to understand: "...I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by" (Zechariah 3:7). "These that stand by" refers to the angels present with the angel of the LORD, Joshua, and Satan. With that in mind, this may refer to the time when once a year the high priest enters into the Holies of Holies to make atonement for Israel. For Joshua to "walk among them" may also mean Joshua will enjoy serving the LORD alongside these angels "that stand by".

2. Zechariah's fifth and sixth vision of the BRANCH and the Stone

"Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH" (Zechariah 3:8).

"Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both" (Zechariah 6:12-13)

A. The BRANCH is the Lord Jesus Christ. Zechariah describes the BRANCH as:

- Jesus Christ who is "my servant the BRANCH". Jesus Christ is God the Son and he does the will of, and is the servant of, the Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
- Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man, *grew up as a man out of his place* (his place is in heaven at the right hand of God the Father).
- Jesus Christ *who will build the temple of the LORD*; through his will and power.
- Jesus Christ who shall be a priest and bear the glory; he shall sit and rule upon his throne.
He shall bring peace between government and God because he will be both priest and king.

B. The Stone is the Lord Jesus Christ and the Stone has seven eyes.

REVIEW: "Four Visions: Grace, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit" Lesson Three**a. The Stone is Jesus Christ**

"Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing- floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2: 34-35).

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THE SAME IS BECOME THE HEAD OF THE CORNER: THIS IS THE LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?" (Matthew 21:42).

- b.** The Stone has seven eyes. Jesus Christ has complete understanding and wisdom of all things and of everyone. He sees everything throughout the whole earth. Nothing escapes his sight or his understanding of what he sees. He is all knowing. Seven in the Bible is considered the number of completeness or fullness. Jesus Christ will forgive Israel's sin in one day when he returns to save Israel and establish his 1,000 year reign on earth (further study in Chapter 12).

"For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day" (Zechariah 3:9).

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth" (Revelation 5:6).

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars" (2Chronicles 16:9).

3. Zechariah's seventh vision of the Candlestick and the Two Olive Trees

"And the angel that talked with me came again and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof" (Zechariah 4:1-2).

- A.** The candlestick described in Zechariah's vision only resembles the candlestick that was part of the furnishings in the tabernacle and the temple described in Exodus 25: 31-40.



Zechariah's vision described a golden candlestick that had a bowl on top of it. This candlestick had seven lamps coming off it that were connected by seven pipes. **Zechariah 4:2-3**

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...behold a candlestick all of gold...And two olive trees by it...This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts...Grace, grace unto it. -Zechariah 4:2b, 3a, c18, 19 (KJV)



B. The Olive trees provide olive oil to burn the lamps.

"And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always" (Exodus 27:20).

C. Olive oil was used to anoint someone to be used by God

"Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon

David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah" (1Samuel 16:13.)

D. Olive oil often represents the Holy Spirit in the Bible

"The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).

E. Zerubbabel and Joshua were anointed by God to complete the work of building the temple.

"And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof" (Zechariah 4:3).

- a. *An olive tree stood upon the right and left sides of the bowl.* The olive oil flowed from the bowl through the golden pipes into the olive trees on each side of the bowl. The Olive oil represents the Holy Spirit. We see a picture of the continuous power of the Holy Spirit. The two olive trees represent God's two anointed men who would build the temple and lead Jerusalem. These two men were Zerubbabel (government) and Joshua (Law, worship). The Holy Spirit would work through these two men to build the temple.

- b. *The olive branches empty the oil into God's two anointed men*

"And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?...Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth" (Zechariah 4:12, 14)

- c. *God's two anointed men were Zerubbabel and Joshua*

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"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you...And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by" (Zechariah 4:9, 3:7).

F. Zerubbabel and Joshua received their power to build the temple from the Holy Spirit

"Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 4:6).

- a. Zerubbabel will not build the temple through his strength or might; no, he will build it through the power of the Holy Spirit!

"Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it" (Zechariah 4:7).

- b. The LORD of hosts assures Zerubbabel that no problem is too difficult for God the Holy Spirit to make smooth: God turns a problem the size of a mountain into a flat plain. The job of building the temple was so big and the opposition against them was so great that it seemed like a "great mountain" to them. It was something beyond what they could do. But nothing is too big for our God. The grace of God is far bigger than the "mountain" of building the temple. In the end, Zerubbabel, Joshua, and all the people knew that was true because they had experienced the power of God working through them and among them!

Take a moment now to reflect upon the gift you were given the moment you were saved...

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1Corinthians 6:19).

Remember: The same Holy Spirit who gave Zerubbabel and Joshua the power to overcome the many difficulties they encountered to build the temple is the same Holy Spirit who lives within each member of the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit lives within you. Never forget this! Don't believe the devil's lies that you can't endure a trial or that there is no solution to your problem because...

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1John 4:4).

The three visions in this Lesson comforted and encouraged Joshua and Zerubbabel: (1) Joshua and the exiles learned that the LORD of hosts has forgiven Jerusalem of her past disobedience and has chosen Joshua to be their high priest. The LORD of hosts has chosen Jerusalem; (2) Joshua was reminded that the BRANCH, who is also the Stone, sees everything and he is watching over them. He will come one day and when he does he will bring salvation. He is Jesus Christ; and (3) the temple will be built by the power of the Holy Spirit working through Zerubbabel.