

## VISION #4 – THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

--ZECHARIAH 3:1-5--

### INTRODUCTION:

In this fourth vision the prophet witnessed a heavenly courtroom where Satan was attempting to accuse elect Israel represented by Joshua the High Priest. In this scene there is only One who is able to intercede for God's elect: the Lord Jesus Christ. We will learn that Israel has only one great High Priest and Advocate: the Angel of Yahweh, God the Son. This vision emphasizes two aspects of the Messiah's priestly ministry on behalf of His people: His ministry of intercession and His ministry of imputation.

### I. THE MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION (Zechariah 3:1-2)

- a. Unlike the visions before this where Zechariah saw or lifted up his eyes to see what God would reveal, this vision begins with, "Then he \_\_\_\_\_ me." (Zechariah 3:1a, NASB95)
- b. The first person that appeared in this vision was \_\_\_\_\_ the high priest.
- c. As Joshua the High Priest stood there, representing the nation, God made it clear that Israel's \_\_\_\_\_ did not depend on Joshua.
- d. In Zechariah's first vision we saw the high priestly ministry of the Angel of Yahweh as He \_\_\_\_\_ for Jerusalem.
- e. There was a third figure in this vision that the prophet saw, standing in this heavenly courtroom at the right hand of Joshua was \_\_\_\_\_. (Revelation 12:10)
- f. In response to that question concerning the destiny of Israel, the Angel of Yahweh said to Satan, "Yahweh \_\_\_\_\_ you, Satan!" (Zechariah 3:2b, NASB95)
- g. The intercession made by the Angel of Yahweh in this vision was \_\_\_\_\_.
- h. First, it came with God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- i. Second, the Messiah's intercession was effective because it was grounded in God's promise of \_\_\_\_\_.
- j. Third, the Messiah's intercession was also effective because it was based on God's \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. THE MINISTRY OF IMPUTATION (Zechariah 3:3-5)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ is anything we think, say, or do that transgresses God's law, sin is also to miss the mark of God's righteous standard.
- b. The prophet tells us that "*Joshua was clothed with \_\_\_\_\_ garments.*" (Zechariah 3:3a, NASB95)
- c. Because of sin and the fact that it stains and defiles sinners, no sinner is \_\_\_\_\_ to serve God, enter His presence, or enjoy fellowship with Him.
- d. The Angel of Yahweh is always ready to \_\_\_\_\_ what we cannot do for ourselves, He is always ready to act on behalf of those who depend on Him.
- e. This complete and permanent removal was required not merely for Joshua's filthy garments, but for the \_\_\_\_\_ they symbolized.
- f. Notice that the Angel of Yahweh states that "*I have taken your \_\_\_\_\_ away from you.*" (Zechariah 3:4b, NASB95)
- g. The removal of sin and guilt is only \_\_\_\_\_ of what must be done.
- h. Though in practice Joshua was still a sinner, in position he was now \_\_\_\_\_, having been clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ. (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21)
- i. As we come to verse five, there is a surprising turn, Zechariah is so caught up in this vision that he \_\_\_\_\_ and participates in the vision.
- j. The \_\_\_\_\_ turban is starkly contrasted with the filth Joshua had previously been wearing.
- k. The word that is used here and translated \_\_\_\_\_ is not the usual Hebrew word used when speaking of the high priest's turban.
- l. This explains why verse 5 concludes by saying, "*while the angel of Yahweh was \_\_\_\_\_ by.*" (Zechariah 3:5b, NASB95)

### CONCLUSION:

Within this vision we have a beautiful picture of our salvation. How we come to God agreeing that we are sinners, helpless to make ourselves acceptable to God. Then the work of salvation begins as

we call on our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He commands that our filthy garments be removed from us, He makes our sins pass away from us, removing the sin and the guilt of sin. Then He put clean clothes on us, with the robes of His own righteousness He clothes us so that we can stand before God justified through the Lord Jesus Christ. What a beautiful picture of our salvation. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed it with these words in Isaiah 61:10, *“I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”* (Isaiah 61:10, NASB95)