

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE COMPLETE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL
ZECHARIAH 3:1-10

Introduction

Here we see that the **LORD** promised to restore **HIS PEOPLE** and make them **HIS** very own! From the time the **LORD** first **CHOSE ISRAEL**, **HE CALLED THEM TO BE HIS PECULIAR TREASURE, A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS**, and a **HOLY NATION OF PEOPLE!**

Exodus 19:5-6—"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine, 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" (compare this to *Isaiah 1:26-27*).

By their **UNBELIEF, REBELLION, and DISOBEDIENCE**, **ISRAEL** had been everything but what the **LORD CALLED THEM TO BE!**

According to *verses 1 and 2*, **JOSHUA the HIGH PRIEST** was representative of **JERUSALEM**. We know that **ISRAEL** is prophesied to be the **ROYAL PEOPLE** in the coming **MESSIANIC KINGDOM**. This third chapter of **ZECHARIAH** describes how this **REINSTATEMENT** will come about.

I. WE SEE ISRAEL'S ENEMY REVEALED. (3:1-2)

SATAN is **GOD'S** greatest enemy in spiritual history. He would like nothing more than to prevent **ISRAEL'S REINSTATEMENT** and the coming **MESSIANIC KINGDOM**.

GOD wants to **HEAL** and **SAVE!** **SATAN** wants to **INJURE** and **DESTROY**. **SATAN** is the one who continually accuses and persecutes **ISRAEL**, as well as the **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**.

SCRIPTURE refers to **SATAN** as the *"...god of this world"* who works in the *"children of unbelief."* He brings the **NATIONS** under his control to oppose **GOD'S** work in **ISRAEL** and the **CHURCH**.

SATAN'S goal is to destroy **ISRAEL!** When the **LORD** said that

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ISRAEL was *like a brand plucked out of the fire*, we see a glimpse of the long periods of suffering **GOD'S** people have experienced. Even in ancient **EGYPT**, the **LORD** saved **HIS PEOPLE** *like a brand out of the fire*.

In the same way, **HE** also saved them out of the four world Empires. Later, after their dispersion in 70 A.D., **GOD** saved them from innumerable organized attempts to annihilate them, not least out of which were the fires of the Holocaust in World War II.

Psalms 66:12 refers to such times of their **SUFFERING** and their **SALVATION** through the **LORD**: *"Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place."*

Isaiah 43:2 adds: *"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."*

At the end of time, another mighty confrontation will take place between the **LORD** and the **DRAGON (SATAN)**, and will result in **SATAN'S** being cast to the earth. (*Revelation 12:7-17*)

Immediately he will begin to persecute **ISRAEL**, but the **LORD** will intervene at just the right moment and will **pluck ISRAEL like a brand out of the fire of destruction**.

Finally, **HE** will bring **HIS PEOPLE OF THE COVENANT** to **SALVATION, PEACE and REST**. In this battle, which is prophetically foreshadowed in the book of **ZECHARIAH**, **SALVATION** does come!

The media and many world leaders continually accuse **ISRAEL**

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because **SATAN** uses the world as a weapon against **GOD'S PEOPLE**. Many United Nations resolutions have been directed against **ISRAEL** and have led to her condemnation. **ARAB NATIONS** are among the **JEWS'** most ardent accusers.

The **JEWS** were blamed and condemned for all sorts of things during the **NAZI REICH**. The **JEWS** were libeled and condemned as guilty of ritual murder and well-poisoning during the Middle Ages. The **NATIONS** that have opposed **ISRAEL**, both in the past and in the present, don't even realize that they have been and continue to be used as tools in **SATAN'S** hands. But it does not make them any less guilty!

We know that **SATAN** is also an enemy of the **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**. **BELIEVERS** are continually accused of hypocrisy; they are humiliated, reviled, and in many parts of the world, they are even persecuted and killed.

But, *Romans 8:33-34* still says "*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us,*"

Thank **GOD** we don't stand before **GOD** clothed in our own righteousness, but in the **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST**.

How can we confront and dispel the enemy's accusations against us? We cannot overcome his accusations through ignorance or desperation. However, it is written in *Revelation 12:11*– "*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*"

We overcome every type of accusation the enemy tries to use against us in the following ways:

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1. Through the **BLOOD OF CHRIST** for **FORGIVENESS!**
2. Through the **WORD OF GOD**, and **HIS PROMISES!**
3. By consciously placing our lives in **JESUS' HANDS!**

We must learn to allow the **LORD** to speak for us. When the enemy accuses, we must admit our failure while clinging to **GOD'S PROMISES!**

Yes, we have sinned, we have failed, but we have also humbled ourselves and have received **FORGIVENESS** through the **BLOOD OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! HE** is our **HIGH PRIEST!**

WE SEE ISRAEL'S ENEMY REVEALED...

II. WE SEE ISRAEL'S UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

Apparently, **SATAN** had good reason to accuse **JOSHUA** and **JERUSALEM**, because the **HIGH PRIEST** was indeed clothed in filthy garments. This unrighteousness is **ISRAEL'S** own righteousness.

The Bible says in *Isaiah 64:6*: "*But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness-es are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away*".

ISRAEL will remain accused by the world for as long as she decides not to clothe herself with **THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST**.

JOSHUA remained the **HIGH PRIEST** despite his filthy garments. Why? Because **GOD'S** gifts and calling are without repentance! (*Romans 11:29*).

III. ISRAEL'S RESTORATION GUARANTEED! (3:4-5)

The guarantee of **ISRAEL'S RESTORATION** lies in the **WORK**

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OF CHRIST! JOSHUA wasn't pardoned by the **LORD** because the accusations against him weren't justified, but because of **GOD'S MERCY AND LOVE!**

There are three components that make up **ISRAEL'S FUTURE SALVATION**, and serve as **ASSURANCE** for us as **BELIEVERS** under the **NEW COVENANT**. These three things speak louder than any accusation every could:

A. The LORD Chose ISRAEL! (Vs 2)
GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE is much stronger than all of **SATAN'S** accusations. **GOD'S CHOICE** takes place apart from any natural advantages or human efforts.

In *Deuteronomy 7:7*, **ISRAEL** is called the "*smallest*" nation and in *Deuteronomy 9:6-7* is described as both "*stiffnecked*" and "*rebellious,*" and yet the **LORD** chose her!

This **SOVEREIGN CHOICE** by the **LORD** is seen in *Deuteronomy 14:2*—"*For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.*"

The **JEWS** aren't **HOLY** on account of their own **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, but because of **GOD'S OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

As a sign of this, **JOSHUA** was given a change of raiment had a "*fair mitre,*" set upon his head (*verses 3-5*). *Romans 11:28-29* explains just how far this goes!

ISRAEL is called an "*enemy*" of the **GOSPEL**, yet, even that doesn't deter **GOD** from holding on to **HIS CHOSEN**

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PEOPLE!

All of **SATAN'S** attacks against **ISRAEL** will ultimately fail on account of **THE LORD'S DIVINE CHOICE** of her!

This also applies to the true **CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST**, which is made up exclusively of **BORN-AGAIN BELIEVERS**. *Romans 8:33*—"*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*"

But there is also a passage in *1 Peter 2:9* which reminds us of **JOSHUA THE PRIEST**: "*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*"

GOD'S CHOICE of us **IN CHRIST** is a **DIVINE DECISION**, and is absolutely independent of all human effort. When **SATAN** attacks our **SALVATION**, he is really fighting against **GOD'S HOLY WILL**, and for that reason he will never win!

However, in order that we not rest upon our election, we are called to work on it and make it sure:

2 Peter 1:10-11—"*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*"

The LORD Chose ISRAEL!

B. ISRAEL Is A Brand Plucked Out Of The Fire! (3:2)
FIRE is a picture of **JUDGMENT** (*Matthew 3:11-12*).

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All that has been *plucked out of a FIRE* has been **SAVED FROM JUDGMENT!** Where and how will **ISRAEL** — and every other person — *be plucked from out of the FIRE of judgment?* By being **“IN CHRIST”!**
Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21

The **DIVINE JUDGMENT** was executed on the **CROSS OF CALVARY**, on **GOD’S SON, JESUS CHRIST WHO** hung on it so that we could *be plucked from this judgment.*

This has already taken place for the **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**, and will be fulfilled for **ISRAEL** in the future!

Those who **BELIEVE ON CHRIST** will not be judged, but those who do not believe are already judged (**John 3:18**). Those who **BELIEVE ON CHRIST** have passed from death to life (**John 5:24**). But, **GOD’S WRATH** remains on those who do not believe! The **BLOOD OF CHRIST**, shed for our salvation, speaks louder than all accusations.

The accuser has to shout, but **CHRIST** only needs to speak! **ISRAEL** will also experience this forgiveness:
(Zechariah 3:4b, 9)

C. The LORD Stands By JOSHUA! (Vs 5)
MESSIAH (the angel of the **LORD**) is the guarantee for the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **HOLINESS** of **ISRAEL** and the **CHURCH!**

The **HIGH PRIEST’S MITRE** signifies **HOLINESS** (*“holiness to the Lord”*) (**Exodus 28:36-38**) and the clean garments signify **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. Both can only be attained through **JESUS CHRIST!**

The day will come when **Isaiah 61:10** will be fulfilled:

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“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”

We also can find peace in the **ONE WHO** ascended to the right hand of **GOD** and represents us before the **FATHER!** No accusation can ever take us away from **GOD** when **JESUS IS OUR PERSONAL ADVOCATE!**

The guarantee of **ISRAEL’S FUTURE** lies in the person of **JESUS CHRIST: (Verse 8-9)**

The **JEWS** are marvelous **PEOPLE** because of their marvelous **GOD—WHO** alone can perform miracles! **ISRAEL’S** history is filled with miracles! (**Verse 6**)

Even in **HIS CHURCH**, our **GOD** does wonders in every respect. And we, **HIS PEOPLE**, can only stand and gaze in amazement! The wonder of **ISRAEL** lies in the **SERVANT**, the **BRANCH**, and the **STONE** with seven eyes.

JESUS is the **SERVANT OF GOD** who did the **WILL OF HIS HEAVENLY FATHER! HE** humbled **HIMSELF** and became a **SERVANT** and even bore **HIS CROSS HIMSELF!**

Look at how **ISAIAH** described **HIM** in **Isaiah 42:1-4**.

JESUS is the **BRANCH OF THE LORD**. The **BRANCH** from the house of **DAVID** will set up the kingdom again. (**Isaiah 11:1**)

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ISRAEL will bear fruit in and through **HIM**:

Isaiah 4:2-3—"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem."

JESUS is also the STONE that the builders rejected ! This **STONE** has become the **CORNERSTONE** (Psalm 118:22). That will also become **ISRAEL'S** ultimate **SALVATION**.

The immovable foundation of our redemption was laid at Calvary: *Matthew 16:18—"...upon this rock I will build my church." (Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God)*

1 Peter 2:6—"Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded"

JESUS is also *the STONE* recorded in *Daniel 2* which will come from heaven to earth at the end of the days. It will crush empires and become a mountain which fills the entire world.

This **STONE** has seven eyes (*vs. 9*) which point to the **LORD'S OMNISCIENCE!** (*Hebrews 4:13—"...all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him..."*)

Revelation 5:6—"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"

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The **FULLNESS** of the **SPIRIT OF GOD** lives in **JESUS**. We have already seen that **HE** sees the whole world and how the **NATIONS** behave toward **ISRAEL**. (*Zechariah 1:11*)

The passage concerning **ISRAEL'S RESTORATION** as the royal nation among the nations closes with the words of *verse 9 and 10*. *"I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree"*

On the day of **JESUS'** return with **HIS SAINTS** at the end of the **TRIBULATION PERIOD**, all of these prophecies will become reality in one single day (*Isaiah 66:8*). Then **ISRAEL** will shine as the *"vine"* and **JERUSALEM** as the *"fig tree"* in the **MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF JESUS CHRIST!**