

Zechariah and the Sharp Dressed Man

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple Internet sources)

Introduction:

A. Background of the prophet

1. Zechariah - /zəkə'raɪ.ə/; Hebrew: זְכַרְיָהּ, Modern Zekharya, "YHWH has remembered"; Greek: Ζαχαρίας Zakharias; Latin: Zacharias
2. Priestly extraction, prophet of the two-tribe Kingdom of Judah, and the author of the Book of Zechariah. Iddo, his grandfather, was a priest and the head of a priestly family, and who also preached in the Chronicles. Berechiah was Zechariah's father (Neh. 12:4)
3. Zechariah's ministry took place during the reign of Darius the Great (Zech. 1:1), and was contemporary with Haggai in post-exilic Judah. Zechariah is specific about dating his writing (520–518 BC).
4. In 538 BC, the famous Edict of Cyrus was released, and the first return took place under Sheshbazzar. After the death of Cyrus in 530 BC, Darius consolidated power and took office in 522 BC. Zerubbabel is appointed by Darius as governor over the district of Yehud Medinata.
5. Two years later, Zechariah begins his book; centering the theme around Rebuilding the temple and the nation of God's people.

B. Background of the book

1. Zechariah 1-8, referred to as First Zechariah, was written in 520 BC.
2. Zechariah 9-14, considered Second Zechariah, was written two years later, and has no specific date associated with it.
3. The return from exile is the premise of the visions in chapters 1–6.
4. Chapters 7–8 address the quality of spiritual life God wants His people to experience, and contains many comforting promises to them.
5. Chapters 9–14 comprise two oracles of the future.
 - a. The first oracle (ch. 9-11) gives an outline of God's providential plans for His people to the time of the coming of the Messiah.
 - b. The second oracle (ch. 12–14) points out the glories that await Israel in the final conflict and triumph of God's kingdom
6. Zechariah's concern for purity in the temple, priesthood, and all areas of personal life is evident throughout the book. In this, he is very similar to the major prophet Isaiah.

C. Zechariah 3:1-5 - Joshua the High Priest is representative of the priesthood and the people of Israel. They are wayward, unkempt, and unclean in the sight of the Lord. God is about to cleanse them and make a vessel of honor of these wayward people.

1. "The clothes make the man." The point is that your clothes say a lot about you, whether or not you intend the message.
2. The world places a lot of emphasis on external appearances.
3. While the world may concern itself with what a man wears on the outside, God is more concerned with what a person wears on the soul
4. This is not to say that it is acceptable to be careless, slovenly, or immodest in appearance. What are you wearing on your spirit today?

I. THE STAINED CLOTHING OF SIN

- A. Zech. 3:3 - Joshua the high priest is a picture of every person lost in sin.
 - 1. Isa. 64:6; Phil. 3:9
- B. It is a hard truth to bear, but humankind is unclean in the sight of God.
 - 1. Isa. 59:2; Rom. 3:10, 23

II. THE STRANGE CLOTHING OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Zech. 3:4 - Only the salvation of the Lord can remove the dirt from our spiritual robes. We do not have the power to clean them ourselves, not can we cover up the stains
 - 1. Adam and Eve sought to cover their nakedness by garments of their own making - Gen. 3:7-8
 - 2. Men have devised countless religions and doctrines over the years with less coverage of their sins than the fig leaf aprons of Adam and Eve
 - 3. Some attempt to keep others from noticing the stains on their spiritual garments by loudly denouncing the sins of others. How well did that work out for the Pharisees?
- B. God and His word see through all of that quite clearly, and He reveals us to ourselves - Heb. 4:12-13.
 - 1. In the Judgment, will there be no difference between the worst serial killer and the best member of the church, if the professed Christian errs from the faith. There will be no difference between the worst foaming-at-the-mouth atheist and the kindest, most moral person who does not obey the gospel
- C. We need God to wash our clothes - Isa. 1:18; Titus 3:5

III. THE STUNNING CLOTHING OF SALVATION

- A. Zech. 3:4-5 - God gave Joshua a new suit of clothes
- B. When God gives you new clothes...
 - 1. It is like being born new and fresh - John 3:3, 7
 - a. Ever wonder what a whole life do-over would be like?
 - b. Salvation is a do-over for our souls
 - 2. It is like becoming a transformed being - 2Cor. 5:17
 - a. Ever wonder what it would be like to be something other than what you are?
 - b. Salvation is a transformation into something you never have been before
 - 3. It is like becoming a new person - Col. 3:10
 - a. What do you feel like now that you have lost so much weight; a new person unfamiliar with this condition
 - b. Imagine how that would feel from the inside to outside
- C. God takes away our old dirty clothes and gives us fresh, new ones
 - 1. Isa. 61:10; Rev. 7:13-17
 - 2. But it is up to us to put them on! - Matt. 22:1-14