Zechariah 3:1-10

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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***Zechariah 3:1–10*** (ESV)  
**1** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of YHWH, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. **2** And YHWH said to Satan, “YHWH rebuke you, O Satan! YHWH who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” **3** Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. **4** And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.” **5** And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of YHWH was standing by. **6** And the angel of YHWH solemnly assured Joshua, **7** “Thus says YHWH of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. **8** Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who sit before you, for they are men who are a sign: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. **9** For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares YHWH of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. **10** In that day, declares YHWH of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.”

1. Chapter three presents the FOURTH vision of Zechariah. Review again the main points of the previous sections of Zechariah:  
   a) Introduction, Zech 1:-1-6  
   b) First Vision, “Man & horses in the myrtle trees”: Zech 1:7-17   
   c) Second Vision, “Four horns and craftsmen”: Zech 1:18-21 .   
   d) Third Vision & Oracle, “ Man with measuring line”: Zech 2.
2. Who is Joshua of Zech 3:1? Who is his father? What is his role? Note also Zech 6:11. Compare also to Hag 1:1 – 2:9. (Remember that Haggai was another prophet contemporary with Zechariah.)
3. What were the Hebrew names of Joshua and his father, and what do they mean?
4. Joshua is also mentioned in Ezra 3:2 but his name, as well as the name of his father, is spelled slightly differently. How are the names spelled here, and what is the difference in Hebrew?
5. This type of abbreviation of names is apparently not uncommon. We also see the same thing for Joshua, son on Nun, who assisted Moses and then took over the leadership of Israel when Moses died. Compare the Hebrew for Joshua, son of Nun, in Ex 17:10 and Neh 8:17.
6. What is the Hebrew name of Jesus, the Messiah? (Note that the Septuagint translates all occurrences of “Joshua” (both Yeshua and Yehoshua) into the Greek as **Iesous** , which is the same Greek name that is used for the Messiah throughout the New Testament.)
7. All this is to suggest that in Zechariah’s prophesy, it may be that Joshua son of Jehozadak is in some way symbolic of Yeshua the Messiah. Keep in mind that possibility as you study this vision. For now, consider Moses’ assistant, Joshua son of Nun. Based on what you know from Scriptures, how was Joshua son of Nun symbolic of (or a foreshadow of) Yeshua the Messiah?
8. Satan is used 3 times in verses and 1 and 2. This is one of the few passages in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) that Satan is directly used. Actually, in Hebrew, all three of these times the term is **“ha satan”**. What does **“ha”** mean and what does **“satan”** mean in Hebrew? Do you think **“ha satan”** is being used as a name here, or just as a descriptive term about the “Evil One”? Why?
9. Who is the “angel of YHWH”, and where are Yeshua and Ha-Satan in relation to this angel? What is happening? What kind of a scene is this? Compare to Job 1:6-12.
10. Who is the “brand plucked from the fire”? What does that mean? Compare also Amos 4:11.
11. Why does it say “YHWH who chose Jerusalem” rebukes Ha-Satan? What is significance of mentioning Jerusalem here in reference to rebuking Satan?
12. What was the most honored duty of the High Priest, and how was he to prepare for that duty, which took place on Yom Kippur? Look at Lev 16:3-4.
13. What would happen if the high priest did not properly prepare himself for his duty, when he entered into the presence of YHWH? For example look at Lev 16:2 and Lev 22:3.
14. In this vision, Yeshua the High Priest was wearing filthy garments. The Hebrew word used for “filthy” is צֹאִי **tso’i** from the root word **tso’a**. What does that word really mean? Compare to Isaiah 4:2-4 where this same word “**tso’a**” is used in verse 4. What is the symbolism? What do you think Ha-Satan was accusing Yeshua of?
15. Why was Yeshua given a clean turban and clean garments to wear? What does that symbolize?
16. Who is doing the speaking in Zech 3:5, which starts out “And I said…” ?
17. In Zech 3:7 what is the promise made to Yeshua? What does Yeshua have to do, and what are the three things he is promised?
18. Yeshua is a given “right of access among those who are standing here”. What do you think that means? Who is standing there? What access is given? Is Yeshua the only one with access, or do all those standing there have access too?
19. Zech 3:8 begins with “hear”. In Hebrew this word for “hear” is שָׁמַע “shema, but it means more than just “to hear”. What does “shema” really mean?
20. Why is it so important for Joshua and his friends to “shema”?
21. “I will bring my servant the branch.” Who is the branch? Compare to at Jer 23:5, Jer 33:15, Isaiah 4:2-4, Isaiah 11:1-9.
22. Zech 3:9a refers to “a single stone with seven eyes”. Maybe this refers to seven imbedded jewels or smaller crystals / stones set in a larger stone. This phrase could also be translated as a single stone with seven facets. What might this stone and seven eyes/jewels/facets represent? Compare Gen 49:24, Isaiah 8:13-15, Isaiah 28:16, Ps 118:22, Acts 4:11, 1 Pet 2:4-7, Zech 4:10 and Rev 5:6.
23. “Eyes” in Zech 3:9 can also be translated as “springs” or “fountains”. This is another possibility, and would be make sense too, since Yeshua was the Rock from which living waters flowed. Look at Neh 9:15, Isaiah 48:21, Psalm 105:41, and 1 Cor 10:4. Do you think this could be the meaning in Zechariah? Why or why not?
24. What do you think was inscribed on the stone (Zech 3:9)?
25. Zech 3:9b says “I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day”. How is this linked to the branch and stone? What is the possible connection with verse 2 which says “YHWH has chosen Jerusalem to rebuke you? What “single day” is referred to? Has it happened already?
26. In Zech 3:10 we see that in that day when all sin is removed, everyone “will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree”. Compare to 1 Kings 4:25 and Micah 4:4. What does this phrase seem to mean?
27. How would you summarize the message of this vision?
28. What would it have meant to the people hearing it in Zechariah’s day? How would it have changed their lives? What does it mean to us today, and how does it change our lives?
29. What did you learn about YHWH or about yourself and your relationship with Him from this passage?