

# The Gospel of Zechariah

The night visions (Zechariah 3)





# Redemptive History





# Darius: Chronology of the Persian Period<sup>1</sup>

Persian King	Dates	Biblical Correlation	Context
Cyrus	539-530	<b>Declaration of Cyrus</b> (539) Return of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1-3)	Stirred up to rebuild the temple
Cambyses	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	Discouraged and afraid to rebuild
<b>Darius I</b>	522-486	Haggai and Zechariah prophesy (520) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5-6)	Rebuilding of the Temple begins again
Xerxes	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1-9)	
Artaxerxes I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7-10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1-2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	



# Exile and the Means of Grace

- My error, God's providence
- God in Exile (Ezekiel 1)
- God leaves the temple (Ezekiel 10)
- Covenant people not abandoned
- Covenant people cut off from the "means of grace"
  - Q: What are the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption?
  - A: The outward and ordinary means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption are, his ordinances, especially the word, sacraments, and prayer; all of which are made effectual to the elect for salvation.
- Temple - back/Lord's Supper - back and forward
  - *Moreover, beyond the pale of the Church no forgiveness of sins, no salvation, can be hoped for...*  
- John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion, Book IV, Section I, Chapter 3



## Zechariah 3 (ESV)

**3:1** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. **2** And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD 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 the LORD was standing by.

**6** And the angel of the LORD solemnly assured Joshua, **7** “Thus says the LORD 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 the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. **10** In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.”



# Joshua

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. (Zechariah 3:1 ESV)

- Returned in the exile with Zerubbabel
- Represented the people before God and made atonement



# Joshua

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. (Zechariah 3:1 ESV)

- Notable in the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)
  - Offerings (for Aaron and the priests)
    - bull for a sin offering
    - ram for burnt offering
  - Holy Garments
    - Holy linen coat
    - Linen undergarment
    - Sash around the waist
    - Linen turban
    - Bath (cleansing) and dress
  - Offerings (for the people)
    - Goats for a sin offering
    - One as a sin offering
    - Other to be sent into the wilderness



# Angel and Satan

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. (Zechariah 3:1 ESV)

- Angel of Yahweh
  - Representing the Lord
  - Speaks on behalf of the Lord
- Satan
  - Hasatan – The Accuser
  - To accuse him
- Heavenly court





# brand...plucked

- rebuke
  - what are the accusations?
- Yahweh
  - Covenant name
- chosen Jerusalem
  - holy City
  - home of the Temple,
- Brand
  - burning stick
  - fire of judgment
  - saved by the hand of Yahweh

And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?”  
(Zechariah 3:2 ESV)



# brand...plucked

And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?”  
(Zechariah 3:2 ESV)

- the accuser is silenced
  - accusations un-recorded
- Joshua’s status and representation of the covenant people
  - Yahweh’s covenant
- Joshua’s position assured by Yahweh’s covenant and election
- Yahweh rescued Joshua and the people
- the Gospel
  - don’t see it *only* individually
  - redemption of the whole covenant community

Now Joshua was standing before the  
angel, clothed with filthy garments.  
(Zechariah 3:3 ESV)



# filthy garments

- must stand before God in holy garments
- garments represent the sin of the people
- filthy garments - covered in excrement
- as the high priest of a formerly exiled people, stands in unrighteousness
- unrighteousness
  - of the exile
  - of their natural condition



# pure vestments

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.” (Zechariah 3:4 ESV)

- before him
  - other angels
  - visionary representations of the Joshua’s priestly colleagues
- remove the filthy garments
  - God’s ultimate atonement for sin
  - Joshua’s unworthiness removed
- taken away
  - iniquity and unworthiness of Joshua removed
    - to the covenant
    - to Yahweh



# pure vestments

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- pure vestments
  - fine garments
  - holy garments (Exodus 28; Leviticus 16)
  - garments to prepare him to stand before the Lord
- I ...
  - angel of YHWH
    - speaks for the Lord
    - speaks with authority
  - names
    - Joshua (Yehoshu'a) - Yahweh is Salvation
    - Jesus ( Iēsous) is a greek version of Yeshua
    - Yeshua related name to Joshua
  - Joshua before Jesus
    - the worthy high priest



# excitement

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 the LORD was standing by. (Zechariah 3:5 ESV)

- Zechariah excited and engaged
  - turban completing the vestments
  - priestly understanding
- clothed him
  - prepared for the office
  - holy garb representing his justified state to represent the people
- angel of Yahweh standing by
  - God’s authority and affirmation present
- Joshua silent
  - done on his behalf
  - legal declaration - picture of justification

And the angel of the LORD solemnly  
assured Joshua, (Zechariah 3:6 ESV)



# solemnly assured

- a charge
- an encouragement
- the temple is being rebuilt
- the priesthood is restored
- the “means of grace” regained



# ways and charge

“Thus says the LORD 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. (Zechariah 3:7 ESV)

- Yahweh of hosts
  - reminder of God’s authority and judgment
- ways and charge
  - priesthood to remain faithful to law of God
  - priesthood to teach the people
  - priesthood to perform the sacrifices
  - priest to be intermediaries
- house and courts
  - temple pure from idolatry
  - means of grace open to the people
- access among
  - heavenly representation of the priesthood on earth
  - temple earthly symbol of the heavenly courts of God
  - royal court - where God rules and administers justice





# the Branch

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.  
(Zechariah 3:8 ESV)

- high priest
  - confirmation of Joshua's role
- friends who sit before you
  - priesthood
- sign
  - priesthood is a sign of something far greater
- branch
  - point to the Messiah



# the Branch

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.  
(Zechariah 3:8 ESV)

- Jeremiah 23:5-6
  - “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’ (Jeremiah 23:5-6 ESV)
- Worthy Davidic king
  - priesthood point to the branch
  - priest and king
  - Christ - prophet, priest, and king



## stone?

For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. (Zechariah 3:9 ESV)

- stone with seven eyes (or facets)
- engrave its inscription
- Exodus 28:36-38
  - “You shall make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving of a signet, ‘Holy to the LORD.’ And you shall fasten it on the turban by a cord of blue. It shall be on the front of the turban. It shall be on Aaron’s forehead, and Aaron shall bear any guilt from the holy things that the people of Israel consecrate as their holy gifts. It shall regularly be on his forehead, that they may be accepted before the LORD. (Exodus 28:36-38)
- stone like plate
- seven facets - perfection, complete
- priest and those he represents - holy (set aside) for YHWH



# in a single day

For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. (Zechariah 3:9 ESV)

- Jeremiah 23:5-6 - Yahweh is our righteousness
- Exodus 28:36-38 - Holy to Yahweh
- justification
  - holiness and righteousness from Yahweh
  - brought by the branch - Jesus Christ
    - Joshua before Jesus
  - righteousness outside the people
  - given by legal declaration



# in a single day

- single day
  - Christ removed iniquity in a single day
- high priest and sacrifice
- as Davidic king, established justice and righteousness
- Joshua and David pointed to the Gospel
  - Christ fulfilled it

For behold, on the stone that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day. (Zechariah 3:9 ESV)



## ... in that day

In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.” (Zechariah 3:10 ESV)

- Zechariah 2:11
  - And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. (Zechariah 2:11)
- that day
  - ultimate fulfillment of the “already” in the “not yet”
- under his vine and under his fig tree
  - a land at piece
  - points the coming of the Gentiles into the covenant, the “already”
  - points to the final consummation, the “not yet”



## ... in that day

In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, every one of you will invite his neighbor to come under his vine and under his fig tree.” (Zechariah 3:10 ESV)

- Revelation 12:7-12
  - Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the **accuser** of our brothers has been thrown down, who **accuses** them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” (Revelation 12:7-12 ESV)