

Morning Sermon Outline November 30, 2014

“PRIEST of Priests” Zechariah 3

If you study God’s Spirit and His work in the Old Testament, you might expect His work to be prominent in the anointed offices. Prophets were clearly filled and empowered by God’s Spirit to prophesy. Kings were at least occasionally empowered by God’s Spirit to govern and wage war. Priests? We rarely if ever have an example of an Old Testament Priest being empowered by God’s Spirit.

I. A ministry more of style than substance –

1. Spirit-filled people made Aaron's garments –

³ "So you shall speak to all *who are* gifted artisans, whom I have filled with the Spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. (Exodus 28:3 NKJ)

2. 40 verses in Exodus 28, speak of these glorious garments – Exodus 28:4-43

3. Not one verse speaks of Aaron or his sons having any intrinsic glory, holiness or beauty, in fact:

A. It was Aaron who made the golden calf –

³⁵ So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made. (Exodus 32:35 NKJ)

B. Aaron like all priests, except Jesus Christ, needed to offer sacrifice for his own sin –

⁸ Aaron therefore went to the altar and killed the calf of the sin offering, which was for himself. (Leviticus 9:8 NKJ)

C. The most beautiful picture of Aaron is drenched in symbol –

² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. (Psalm 133:2 NKJ)

II. Sin, eventually defiles not only substance, but style too –

^{NKJ} Zechariah 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 oppose him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" ³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. (Zechariah 3:1-3 NKJ)

1. A sad situation – Joshua the high priest is standing before the Angel of the LORD

- A. Either ministering in his role as high priest or attempting to do so
- B. Or standing as before the Angel of the LORD as JUDGE, as brought there by Satan
- C. Both of the above

2. Sometimes Satan’s opposition is supported by sad truth –

A. Joshua’s garments were filthy –

³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel.

B. This is the place we all stand –

⁶ But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. ⁷ And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities. (Isaiah 64:6-7 NKJ)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. (Romans 3:19 NKJ)

Note, Joshua the high priest says nothing against the opposition of Satan. We also have no personal defense, see Romans 3:19.

Satan is our constant accuser - the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, (Revelation 12:10 NKJ)

“Truly, dear friend, if Satan wants to accuse us, any page of our history, any hour of any day will furnish him material for his charges. Yesterday you were impatient, the day before you were proud, another day you were slothful, on another angry. Oh, what a den of unclean birds the human heart is!... If the old accuser wants reasons for accusation he may indeed find as many as he wills, and continue to accuse as long as ever he pleases, for we are altogether as an unclean thing.” C.H. Spurgeon

3. There was likely a physical reality behind this vision –

III. Satan may have been grinning, but he was NOT winning –

Verse :1 tells us Satan was standing by Joshua in this vision, he seems to think he has a slam dunk case against him and all the priests and people he (Joshua) represents –

What did Satan have against him? The LORD's rebuke, the LORD's rebuke for two reasons:

1. Jerusalem was chosen –

A. Salvation is based on election, not in the good or evil of particular persons –

⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁰ And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." (Romans 9:9-13 NKJ)

B. We are chosen, elect, in order that we might be Holy, not chosen because we were holy –

⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (Ephesians 1:4 NKJ)

2. Joshua was a brand plucked (rescued) from the fire –

IV. Why Satan had no chance, why we should sing and dance –

1. God will clothe us, with His own righteousness -

⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." ⁵ And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom

God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:21-26 NKJ)

2. How blood washed, Christ clothed people should act / live -

⁶ Then the Angel of the LORD admonished Joshua, saying,

⁷ "Thus says the LORD of hosts: `If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command, Then you shall also judge My house, And likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk Among these who stand here. ⁸ `Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH. ⁹ For behold, the stone That I have laid before Joshua: Upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription,' Says the LORD of hosts, `And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. ¹⁰ In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, `Everyone will invite his neighbor Under his vine and under his fig tree.'" (Zechariah 3:4-10 NKJ)

A. They should walk in God's ways - :6-7

B. They were walking as a "wondrous sign"

- Meaning they were pointing to someone else
- Meaning responsibility for perfect righteousness was not on their shoulders, though they may have FELT IT to be, while under Satan's accusations
- As a wondrous sign, they were pointing to a Wonderful Savior, the Branch, Jesus!

⁹ Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness, And let Your saints shout for joy. (Psalms 132:9 NKJ) see also Revelation 19:7-8; Psalm 149:3-4

V. Jesus, the Servant, the Branch, the Stone, He Who removes iniquity in one day, the Bread and the Wine

1. The Servant - Isaiah 42:1; 52:13 – 53:13;

2. The Branch - Isaiah 4:2; 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; Zechariah 6:12

3. The Stone – Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14; Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:4-10

A. "Seven eyes" :9 – the perfect perception and constant watch of God

B. Engraved inscription – meaning built by the LORD, this is His true Temple – Ephesians 2:19-22 / see also 1 Kings 8:27 Solomon's vs. God's

C. Iniquity REMOVED in one day –

¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14 NKJ)

D. Of course we remember the same things in the LORD's Supper.

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