

## Zechariah 3,4

2-27-03

### *“Salvation & Power!”*

#### 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Announcements:
- 1.2. **Q:** This book is quoted how many times in the NT? 71
  - 1.2.1. **22** times in the gospels; & **31** times in the Rev.
- 1.3. Chapter 3 deals with their **religious** leader, Joshua the high priest.  
Chapter 4 deals with their **political** leader, Zerubbabel the high priest.

#### 2. **4<sup>th</sup> VISION, THE HIGH PRIEST! (Ch.3)**

- 2.1. **A PRIEST PURIFIED!** (1-7)
- 2.2. Here we have one of the clearest portrayals of God’s **gracious gift of salvation!**
- 2.3. This Joshua returned from Babylon w/Zechariah.
- 2.4. **[1] Cleansed!** (1-4a)
- 2.5. **(2) The Lord rebuke you Satan** – (Let’s leave that for the Lord to do).
  - 2.5.1. We have this phrase here & in Jude 1:9 (w/Michael the archangel).
  - 2.5.2. I know of “NO” place in scripture where it tells **us** to do this.
  - 2.5.3. “When Satan talks to **us** about **God**, he lies;  
But when he talks to **God** about **us**, he tells the truth!”<sup>1</sup>
- 2.6. **(2b) Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?**
  - 2.6.1. When **John Wesley** was only 6 years old he & his family awoke to their family’s old rectory on fire. Everyone else in his family was dragged to safety, but somehow he was forgotten. At the very last moment, just before the roof crashed in, a neighbor climbed on the shoulders of another & pulled the terrified child from a window.
  - 2.6.2. **Later** the scene was drawn for Wesley, & he kept it until the day of his death. He wrote under it this verse “**is this not a brand plucked from the fire?**”
  - 2.6.3. **All** of God’s people experience being rescued from the fires of hell!

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<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe; pg.98

- 2.7. (3) **Q:** How can one conduct service for God unless he or she is in the right condition?
- 2.7.1. God cleanses his people for service!
- 2.7.2. Joshua stood in garments spattered with *excrement*. (Heb.)
- 2.7.3. If you “*step in Doggy do*”...You don’t go walking into your own house do you?...So all the more...would you in **Gods?**
- 2.8. **[2] Clothed!** (4b,5)
- 2.9. (4) Isaiah said, “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.” (64:6)
- 2.10. (5) **Turban – Q:** What did it say on the front of the high priest’s turban?
- 2.10.1. Ex.28:36,37
- 2.10.2. Job said, “I put on **righteousness**, and it **clothed** me; My **justice** was like a **robe** and a **turban**.” (29:14)
- 2.10.3. **Adam & Eve** tried to hide their guilt under garments of their own making. **God** killed animals & clothed them w/skins.
- 2.11. **So when God works salvation:** He **rebukes** our adversary(2); then **plucks** us from the pit(2b); **removes** our dirty sins(4); the **clothes** us with rich robes of righteousness(4b); then **crowns** our head with a turban of holiness(5).
- 2.11.1. We not only receive the gracious gift to **stand** before Him, but also to **serve** Him.
- 2.12. **[3] Commissioned!** (6,7)
- 2.13. God cleanses His people **for service!**
- 2.13.1. With forgiveness comes **responsibility!**
- 2.13.2. Like Joshua, **we** are expected to **follow** the Lord’s commands & **lead** by example!
- 2.14. Remember, **Joshua** = Jehovah is salvation.
- 2.15. **THE BRANCH!** (8-10)
- 2.16. (8) Even though the **tree trunk** of David’s dynasty appeared to have been felled, out of the **stump** of that tree emerged a **sprout** – the Branch.
- 2.17. (9) **The Stone** – Another title for Christ!

- 2.17.1. To the Church – He is the “**foundation**” & “**chief cornerstone.**” [Eph2:20]
  - 2.17.2. To the Jews at His 1<sup>st</sup> Coming – He was the “**stumbling stone.**” [Rom.9:32,33]
  - 2.17.3. To the Israel at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming – He is the “**capstone.**” [Zech.4:7]
  - 2.17.4. To the Gentile Powers – He is the “**striking stone.**” [Dan.2:34]
  - 2.17.5. To the Divine Purpose – He is the “**great mountain that will fill the whole earth**”. “*the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.*” [Dan.2:35]
  - 2.17.6. To the unbeliever – He is the “**crushing stone.**” [mt.21:44 “And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”]
- 2.18. And so we are to share the message of being: **Cleansed; Clothed; & then Commissioned.**

### **3. 5<sup>th</sup> VISION, THE LAMPSTAND & OLIVE TREES! (Ch.4)**

- 3.1. **SPIRIT SUPPLIED!** (1-6)
- 3.2. **Our picture** is that of a giant 7 branched Menorah with olive trees at both ends, dripping their oil into the bowls to supply the power needed for the light to burn.
- 3.3. **Oil** in scripture speaks of the Holy Spirit(& power). *Show Menorah*
  - 3.3.1. He is the vine(inside stem of menorah); You are the branch(branches coming off the vine); **He** is the light of the word(bowl, top center); **You** are the light of the world(other bowls). The oil is the H.S. “**But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you,**” (1 Jn.2:27)
  - 3.3.2. This candlestick is **different** from the temple menorah in that it has **7 pipes** to each lamp, thus assuring an **ample supply of fuel** to keep the lights burning.
- 3.4. (6) If you “build for God” you need to know the **source** of spiritual stamina...the **Spirit supplies!**
  - 3.4.1. **Might** means military might.
  - 3.4.2. **Power** refers to an individual’s strength.
    - 3.4.2.1. The caution is not to trust in **your own** strength & wisdom.
    - 3.4.2.2. Nor, the **worlds resources.**
    - 3.4.2.3. **But only putting full dependence upon the power of God!**
  - 3.4.3. Zech. reminds Zerub. of that **reservoir of resource** in this vs.

- 3.4.4. It is the temptation of this pragmatic age to presume that **technique** is the secret of evangelism, the secret of teaching, the secret of church growth, the secret of witnessing, the secret of worship.
- 3.5. Every Christian possesses the Spirit of God... “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed **the Spirit of God dwells in you**. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”
- 3.5.1. But, even though you have the H.S. **residing** in you, He may not be **presiding** over you!
- 3.5.2. Thus the need for the **repeated infillings**. “**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit**”
- 3.5.3. We are to be **filled**...meaning “**controlled**”. - The H.S. should continually control & dominate the life of the believer.
- 3.5.4. The prohibition here was speaking to the religious worship of **Dionysus** which was well known to the ancient world.<sup>2</sup>
- 3.5.4.1. The worshippers felt that they were **united, indwelt, & controlled** by Dionysus who gave them special powers & abilities.
- 3.5.5. **Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones** was a brilliant physician who became a pastor & ministered for 40 yrs. in Westminster Chapel, London.
- 3.5.5.1. He wrote... “Drink is not a stimulus, it is a depressant. It depresses 1<sup>st</sup> & foremost the highest centers of all in the brain. They are the 1<sup>st</sup> to be influenced & affected by drink. They control everything that gives a man self-control, wisdom, understanding, discrimination, judgment, balance, the power to assess everything; in other words everything that makes a man behave at his best & highest. The better a man’s control, the better man he is...but drink is something which immediately gets rid of **control**; that indeed is the 1<sup>st</sup> thing it does.”
- 3.5.6. **Legend** - According to legend when Noah entered the ark he took along a vine. He had been a gardener before he built the ark, and when he settled again on the land after the deluge, he planted the vine once more and returned to his old occupation. As he worked in the garden, Satan came to him and said: "If you will let me help you, I can show you how to make grapes grow on the vine tomorrow." "That," said Noah, "is something worth seeing." Satan helped Noah plant the vine. Then Satan took a lamb, a lion, a

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<sup>2</sup> **Di·o·ny·sus** (dī ˈ E-nīˈsEs) *noun* Greek & Roman Mythology. The **god of wine** and of an orgiastic religion celebrating the power and fertility of nature. Also called *Bacchus*.

monkey and a pig and watered the plant with their blood. That is why, after the first glass of wine, one becomes gentle as a **lamb**; after the second glass of wine, as daring as a **lion**; after the third glass one is apt to make a **monkey** of himself; and after the fourth glass of wine, a man becomes drunk and behaves like a **pig**.

- 3.5.7. We are to be **filled**...meaning “**controlled**”. The H.S. should continually control & dominate the life of the believer.
- 1.1.1. **[1] IT IS A COMMAND!**-Not a suggestion,we aren't free to ignore it.
- 1.1.2. **[2] IT IS A PLURAL COMMAND!** - To the whole world.
  - 1.1.2.1. **NONE** of us are to get drunk;  
**ALL** of us are to be filled w/the Spirit;  
It is not for the **FEW** or **ELITE!**
- 1.1.3. **[3] IT IS A PASSIVE COMMAND!** – “Let the H.S. fill you”, there is no ritual or formula!
  - 1.1.3.1. We **must turn** from any known sin. - We **must open** ourselves to God's Word. - We **must yield** to the Spirit!
- 1.1.4. **[4] IT IS A PRESENT TENSE COMMAND!** - It is not once for all, but continuous.
  - 3.5.7.1. **Gatorade Cap** - “Life is a sport...Drink it up!” - No, “There's Life in the Spirit, **Drink Him Up!**”
- 3.6. **Big Mountains & Small things!** (7-10)
- 3.7. (7) **Mountains to plains!**
  - 3.7.1. He was facing mountains of **discouragement**; mountains of **opposition**; mountains of **poor crops**; mountains of **unstable economy**; mountains of **people not obeying the word of God!**
  - 3.7.2. **Not too different today!**
  - 3.7.3. We need the Holy Spirits Power!
    - 3.7.3.1. Vance Havner wrote, “We say we depend on the H.S., but actually we are so wired up w/our own devices that if the fire does not fall from heaven, we can turn on a switch & produce **false fire** of our own. If there is no sound of a rushing wind, we have the furnace all set to blow hot air instead. **God save us from a synthetic Pentecost!**”
- 3.8. (9) Notice God works, but usually **not w/o our work!**
  - 3.8.1. Compare “**but by My Spirit**”(6); & “**the hands of Zerabbabel**”(9).
  - 3.8.2. The human & the heavenly! - **[It is a both/and situation!]**

- 3.8.3. As one put it, “A **supernatural source** is our **greatest resource**, but ordinarily that **supernatural source’s** only **recourse** is to **operate through us**.”<sup>3</sup>
- 3.9. (10) **Who has despised the day of small things?**
- 3.9.1. **God loves using small things:**
- 3.9.2. He used **small shepherd boy** against big goliath.
- 3.9.3. A **small stone** against a gigantic forehead(or 6-head).
- 3.9.4. He used a **small rod** in Moses’ hand.
- 3.9.5. He used a **small lunch** to feed a multitude.
- 3.9.6. He used a **small amount of mud** to heal a blind man.
- 3.9.7. He used a **small jawbone** to defeat an army of 1000.
- 3.9.8. **God loves using small things!**
- 3.9.8.1. Don’t despise your small **talents**; your small **time**; your small **treasures!**
- 3.9.9. **We didn’t just decide one day to fly to the moon** - On March 16, 1926, on a farm, Dr. Robert Goddard and a couple of friends launched the world's **first successful rocket**. It rose 41 feet in the air, flew for two and one-half seconds, and landed 184 feet from the launch pad. But it was a beginning.
- 3.9.9.1. Despise not "the day of small things".
- 3.9.10. A man came to a construction site, where **stonemasons** were working. The man said to one, "What are you doing?" The stonemason said, "**You can see, I'm chipping a stone.**" The man walked over to another mason and said, "What are you doing?" He answered, "**I'm building a wall.**" The man walked over to a third mason and said, "What are you doing?" This mason answered, "**I am building a cathedral.**" - All three were doing the same thing, but what a difference **perspective** makes!
- 3.10. (14) **The 2 anointed ones** – speaking of Joshua & Zerubbabel.
- 3.10.1. “As the 2 olive trees, Joshua & Zerub. received the empowering Spirit of God & kept the light of Israel’s work & witness burning.”<sup>4</sup>
- 3.10.2. **See** also Rev.11:4.
- 3.11. The Servant the Branch came to **save!** - The Lord **empowers** his own by His Spirit!
- 3.12. Zechariah ministered to discouraged people attempting to accomplish a difficult task.

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<sup>3</sup> Jim Townsend; pg.78

- 3.12.1. When you find yourself ready to **give up** remember **Gods assurances:**
- 3.12.2. [1] **He gives us power!** (1-6){oil}
- 3.12.3. [2] **He removes obstacles!** (7){**unbelief** makes mountains out of mole hills; **Faith in God** makes mountains into plains!}
- 3.12.3.1. "Behold, I will make you(Israel) into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; You shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, And make the hills like chaff." Is.41:15
- 3.12.3.2. Jesus said, "if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this **mountain**, 'Move from here to there,' and **it will move**; and nothing will be impossible for you."
- 3.12.4. [3] **He gives promises!** (9)
- 3.12.4.1. God finishes what He starts!
- 3.12.4.2. Phil.1:6 "being confident of this very thing, that He who has **begun** a good work in you **will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;"
- 3.12.4.3. The temple project was delayed for many years, but God eventually helped them **finish** it.
- 3.12.5. [4] **He rejoices over our work!** (10)
- 3.12.5.1. To the **eyes of men** the Temple project was a small thing(Hag.2:3); but to the **eyes of God**, it was a source of great joy.
- 3.12.5.2. Like when our kids make us something & they say, "well it not the best but..." (we are very pleased by it)
- 3.12.5.3. **Do your best to please God, & allow Him to be the final judge.**
- 3.12.5.3.1. "Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God." 1 Cor.4:5

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<sup>4</sup> Warren Wiersbe; pg.107