

The Prophet of Visions

Zechariah

PROPOSITION: The vision of Joshua the high priest is a picture of the saint accused by the devil and still in need of grace.

INTRODUCTION:

1. The prophecy of Zechariah is abundant with Messianic references (cf. 9:9, 10; 13:7; 14:9).
2. However, it is the imagery that gets our attention. In the first six chapters, there are eight pictures.
3. The book of Zechariah was written by one of the priests who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel.
 - a. It may be thought of as a sequel to the book of Haggai.
 - b. Its purpose was 1) to encourage the people to rebuild the temple, and 2) to encourage the people regarding the future.
 - c. Outline:
 - 1) Pictures to Promote (chps. 1-6)
 - 2) Appeal to Activity (chps. 7, 8)
 - 3) Disclosure of Destiny (chps. 9-14)
 - d. Key verse: Zechariah 4:6.
4. One vision particularly captures our attention. It is a heavenly courtroom scene (Zech. 3:1-10).

DISCUSSION:

I. The Guilt of the Sinner

- A. Joshua stood in the place of the priesthood and the nation.
- B. "You are...a royal priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:5, 9).
- C. Satan's charge is against us all (Job 1:11; Rev. 12:10).
- D. The devil was saying of Joshua, "He is dirty," and he was (Zech. 3:3).
- E. Joshua had no defense (cf. Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:9-23).

II. The Grace of the Savior

- A. Satan misjudged the grace of God.
- B. God was aware of Joshua's sinful condition (Zech. 3:2).
- C. Satan was rebuked, and Joshua was exalted.
- D. The grace of God appears in the "angel of the Lord" (Zech. 3:4).
- E. In heaven's courtroom, Jesus is man's defense attorney (1 John 2:1; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- F. The removal of the "filthy garments" was symbolic of forgiveness.
- G. The forgiveness was not without conditions (cf. Zech. 3:7).

III. The Glory of the Saint

- A. The charge God gives to the priest is followed by a fourfold promise (Zech. 3:7-10).
 1. Access
 2. A Servant, the Branch
 3. Forgiveness
 4. Peace
- B. The "single stone" is the kingdom God established never to be destroyed (cf. Dan. 2:44).
- C. The "seven eyes" are symbolic of the fullness of God's watchful care over His promises.

CONCLUSION:

1. Whether an alien sinner or delinquent saint, you have an Advocate in heaven.
2. However, only the obedient have a right to this perfect "legal counsel" (cf. Heb. 5:9).