

(CHRISTMAS 2008)  
"A Redeeming God"

Zechariah was a priest who encouraged the Jewish remnant to rebuild the temple by looking ahead to the coming of the Messiah. Very clear messianic passages abound in this book. In chapter three Zechariah's fourth vision gives us a picture of the future redeeming work of the Messiah (Jesus).

Everyone is in agreement something is deeply broken with the world. The brokenness of this world is as much inside of us as it is around us.

Zechariah 3:1-10

**THE REPROACH OF THE ACCUSER:**

V1 "...Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him."

**Satan** = Heb. Adversary, one who withstands.

(John 10:10a; 1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:12)

**Satan's methods:** Afflicts, Conquers, Deceives, Hinders, Murders, Perverts, Prompts, Schemes, Stalks, Steals, Tempts, Threatens and Accuses.

(Job 1:6-11, 2:1-5; Rev. 12:10)

**Satan's Accusations...**

- "God's holding out on you." (Deception)
- "Your sin is too big." (Discouragement)
- "The opposite of faith is doubt." (Doubt)
- "Your suffering is proof that God doesn't love you." (Disillusion)
- "God can't use you." (Disqualify)
- "You'll never measure up." (Devalue)

**THE RECORD OF THE ACCUSED:**

V3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.

- I am a sinner by nature and choice. (Rom. 3:23; 1:25)

- My sin is extremely offensive to God. (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 64:6)
- There is nothing I can do to make myself acceptable to God. (Eph. 2:8-9)
- Wrong ways of dealing with Guilt and Shame:
  - ✓ Intellectual techniques (Relativism, Rationalism).
  - ✓ Emotional techniques (Medicate, Addictions).
  - ✓ Volitional techniques (Religious, Being Good).

**THE REDEMPTION OF THE ADVOCATE:**

v4 *The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."*

- God forgives me instantly, completely, repeatedly & freely. (Guilt) (Neh. 9:17, Isa. 55:7, Col.2:13-14, Jer. 31:34, 1John 1:9, Heb. 7:25, Rom. 3:23-24, Eph. 2:8-9)
- God gives me a new identity as His dearly loved child. (Shame) (2 Cor. 5:17, 1 John 3:1, Rom. 8:15-17, Eph. 1:3-14, 1 Pet. 2:9-10)

**THE REPENTANCE OF THE ACCEPTED:**

v7 *This is what the Lord Almighty says: If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.*

- Religion = I obey therefore I'm justified (accepted).
- Irreligion = I \_\_\_\_\_ therefore I'm justified (accepted).
- Gospel = I am Justified (accepted) by God through the work of Jesus Christ therefore I obey.

2 Cor. 5:14-15 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. [15] And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.



# Growing

November 30, 2008

## desert breeze community church

- 1) The Hebrew Prophets prophesied the coming of the Messiah. Christians believe that the Messiah they prophesied was born at Christmas. Jesus fulfilled some 300 biblical predictions with His 1<sup>st</sup> coming. How significant are these prophecies? (1 Pet. 1:19)
  
- 2) In Zechariah's vision who is the accuser? What do the following verses have to say about him? (John 10:10a; 1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:12) Look over the list of accusations on the notes. Which one(s) do you most struggle with? What are the results?
  
- 3) Joshua dressed in filthy (excrement) clothes is a picture of our true condition before God. Explain. How do we typically deal with our guilt and shame? An addiction is dependence upon a substance, or a person, or a behavior that provides a temporary sense of well-being. What are your addictions?
  
- 4) What is God's solution to our guilt and shame (v4; 2 Cor. 5:21)? What does it mean that God forgives me instantly, completely, repeatedly & freely? (Rom. 8:1)
  
- 5) God gives me a new identity as His dearly loved child. Explain. What would be the result of someone who is living in the reality of their forgiveness and new identity in Christ? (2 Cor. 5:14-15)