

## **Zechariah 3:1-7 – Clothes Unfit For The Wedding – Vision 3**

TSK, HebrewLexicon, Handfuls, Poole, Trapp, Young, Delitzsch, Henry, Calvin, Clarke, Spurgeon, INT, JFB, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: It is very inappropriate to show up at a black tie affair and be dressed in jeans, and a t-shirt. You would insult your hosts and others will laugh at you. You might even be refused entry. But there is a worse fashion mistake you can make: It is **to show up before the Lord, God of heaven and earth, and be dressed with spiritually filthy 污秽 clothes!** You will hear about this from God's Word today...and the remedy for filthy clothes.

Our headings are:

**Filthy Clothes Revealed**

**Filthy Clothes Replaced**

Our goals are: **That you will see what your old nature was like and the renovation Christ made to it, and then learn how you must respond to the Renovator of your soul.**

### **Filthy Clothes Revealed**

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 训斥 you! Is this not a **brand plucked from the fire?**" 3

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

**1. In Zechariah's 3rd vision, he saw Joshua the High Priest of God's people standing before Yahweh.**

**2. Satan (Adversary) was also there because he was the accuser.** He is called the Accuser of the Brethren. And he loves to see spiritually stained clothes! He knows that dirty spiritual clothes disqualify people from entering into God's presence.

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, **for the accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

**3. Jesus is also there, because he is ready to defend** his children and to pave their way to heaven.

**4. What was the nature of the accusation that Satan brought against Joshua before Yahweh?** Satan accused Joshua the High Priest of having dirty clothes! He was saying that Joshua was full of sin. The Devil's argument was: Joshua had to make supplications for the people of God, so how could he represent Gods people that if he were that dirty? The Devil must have had a smirk 傻笑 on his face knowing this! By using the word "filthy," Satan was literally saying that Joshua had excrement on his clothes. It seemed like the Devil's argument had won. Joshua had fallen quite short of where he was supposed to be.

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to **keep oneself unspotted from the world.**

And since Joshua was representative of the whole nation, **Satan was really accusing the whole Jewish nation of compromising in Babylon and having filthy clothes.** To him, the Jews were not fit to return to Jerusalem, not fit to rebuild the temple, not fit to restore worship, and surely not prepared for raising Christ's kingdom around the world.

**5. But Yahweh, rebuked Satan in a common way of cursing.** (Jude V9.) Why did Yahweh rebuke Satan? He rebuked Satan because of the other person there – Jesus Christ. Jesus is the great Redeemer of the church from her filth, and he is the Restorer of the church. And he stands up for his people all the time – from spiritual birth to spiritual translation to heaven. And Yahweh repeats the rebuke to show certainty of it. God was not making a mistake. He wanted it to be clear that Satan had nothing about which he could accuse Israel. All her filth had been put on Jesus.

**6. Yahweh asserted that he had chosen Jerusalem.** As the chosen, all Jerusalem's sins were forgiven. But this was a judicial setting (not a paternal one). It was a legal declaration. The Lord wasn't saying that the Jews were perfect in a paternal 父亲的 way... But he was saying that all their sins were atoned 赎罪 for...sins of the past, present, and future. Remember how the Lord chose Jacob – not for anything good in him, but because of everything good in God! (Romans 9)

**7. Yahweh rescued Jerusalem from the fire and restored her.** Jerusalem was like **the fire brand** that was placed in Babylonian fire for 70 years and could not move. Satan's desire was that she be thrown back into the fire for her filthiness. But God said he saved her as his own.

**8. Lessons:**

**a. Satan will accuse you every day of being filthy and make you feel guilty.** Don't give him reason to accuse you. Flee sin.

**b. Satan will especially target ministers and other leaders, like fathers in homes (like he targeted Joshua), because he knows if he attacks the leaders and destroys them, the sheep would be scattered.** So guard yourselves. Protect your flock. Live clean lives...especially in leadership.

**c. No Christian must be afraid to die and appear before the Lord because all your sins have been forgiven.** Jesus took the fire for you when he died on the cross. And that leads to the next point.

## **Filthy Clothes Replaced**

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.**"

**1. Yahweh did not say that Joshua's unclean garments were clean...or acceptable. No, God does not compromise with sin! Yahweh simply instructed Jesus to "take away Joshua's filthy garments."** This is a picture of forgiveness-forgiveness that only comes through Jesus Christ because his blood was shed to appease 安抚 God's anger and free man from his sins. There is no one else who can remove your sins.

**Psalm 86:5** For You, **Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,** And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

**2. Notice the passive position of Joshua here. He was given new clothes.** And the name "Joshua" was not by accident. The name meant "Jehovah saves."

**Hebrews 9:24** For **Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands,** which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, **now to appear in the presence of God for us;**

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.

**3. Yahweh then re-dressed the once filthy Joshua.**

**a. Yahweh then gave him a clean turban.** This was a symbol of Divine authority which was only given to priests. It represented holiness.

**Exodus 28:2** "And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. 4" "And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic 中山装, a **turban 头巾**, and a sash 肩带. So they shall make **holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons,** that he may minister to Me as priest.

The turban meant that God's people (represented here by Joshua) were now going to have access to him...What a blessing to see this happening. Consider what had happened earlier before captivity.

**Ezekiel 21:26** 'thus says the Lord GOD: "**Remove the turban, and take off the crown;** Nothing shall remain the same. Exalt the humble, and humble the exalted.

This was a royal priesthood. He could enter the Holy of Holies.

**b. And new clothes were also a picture of joy.** You know how some people enjoy buying clothes and wearing them! And this was name brand clothes, branded with the name of Jesus. Two examples:

**Luke 15:22** "But the father said to his servants, '**Bring out the best robe** and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.

**Isaiah 61:10** I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For **He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,** He has covered me with the robe of righteousness...

6 Then the **Angel of the LORD admonished 告诫 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.

**4. Yahweh then warned the beautifully dressed Joshua that constant blessings would only come if he walked in the ways of the Lord.** He had to be faithful to the covenant into which he was brought to receive greater blessings!

**John 8:12** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. **He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.**"

**Philippians 1:21** For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

**5. What were some of those blessings that would come on Joshua – one who pictured the church?**

**a. Joshua would serve in the Lord's temple – the house of God.**

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to **Mount Zion and to the city of the living God**, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,

The existence of the temple was assurance of God's blessings and the reality of the kingdom expanding!

**b. Joshua serve and rule among people who would willing submit to his rule.** The continued ruling by Joshua meant that there would be peace within the walls of Jerusalem.

## **6. Lessons:**

**a. Your filthy garments of sin were not covered over or hidden away, but completely removed and replaced with clothes of righteousness – bought through the death of the Lamb.** This is what makes you now fit to serve in the office of priest of God and kings on the earth. You cannot enter into God's presence with dirty clothes. To participate in the marriage supper of the Lamb of God you must be properly attired... with beautiful clothes of righteousness. This is what David Leslie Kidd needs!

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. **But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

**b. But before wearing the new clothes you have to be washed.** This is what David Leslie Kidd needs!

Psalms 32:1 **Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven**, Whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.

The smell of wickedness had to be removed through washing. **Lisa said this past week that she loved the smell of little David.** If she could smell his sin, the Facebook posting would have been different.

**c. That work of renewing the soul and clothing it with righteousness causes God to have and to keep peace with you.** This is what David Leslie Kidd needs.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>3</sup> And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

**d. Having been washed, and having been given new clothes, you are the keepers of God's house now.** Do you see something filthy? Get rid of it. Tell others to get rid of it. Do you see corrupt worship, speak up! You have a noble duty. The Lord will help you. Yes, there are some ministers who are tyrants instead of servant rulers, and they are some who are weaklings instead of rulers. Is it any wonder that the church is weak today? But you must be faithful! This is the only sure way for blessings. This is the only way the kingdom will expand. Constant blessings are tied to walking in the path cut by the Lord.

## **Conclusion:**

Joshua, who represented God's people, was pictured as having filthy clothes. The Devil accused Joshua of not being fit to be a representative of God's people who would lead the Jews in Jerusalem, rebuild the temple, and prepare for the expansion of the kingdom of God to the ends of the earth. But the Father spoke up... and rebuked the Devil for pointing out Joshua's filthy clothes. God rebuked the Devil because new clothes had been bought by the Lord Jesus. What an encouragement this must have been for the Jews when they reflected on the meanness of their condition and when they felt incapable of restoring worship and building God's kingdom.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. You are part of the wedding, with the right clothes, clothes that came from Jesus.**

**2. Having been given the right clothes, are you acting like the Bride of Christ? Are you walking together with the Lord?** Are you staying close to him, to listen to him? Do you talk to him regularly?

**3. Will you reproduce... bear children of the covenant?** Sow the seed of the Gospel so many new lives can have new birth!

Finally: If you are not a Christian, your clothes are filthy and you cannot enter into the Marriage Supper of the Lamb – that great supper that marks the marriage of the church with Jesus. You will go to hell with all filthy persons. But if you look to Jesus and ask for new clothes, clothes purchased on the cross, he will remove your old clothes, wash you, and clothe you with his righteousness.