

# **“New Clothes for Christmas”**

Greg Wendschlag December 15, 2019

Bible-First Lifestyle reading: Haggai; Zechariah; Isaiah 48-53

*“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan<sup>(a)</sup> standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?” Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 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.” Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by. The angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua: “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in obedience to me 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. “Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,” says the LORD Almighty, “and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day. In that day each of you will invite your neighbor to sit under your vine and fig tree,” declares the LORD Almighty.” Zech. 3:1-10*

## Characters in Zechariah’s Vision

- Joshua: The High Priest - The representative of the people before God
- The Angel of the Lord/The Branch/The Stone: Jesus
- The Lord: God
- Satan: The Accuser
- Those Standing before him: Ministering angels
- Filthy clothes: Our sin
- Rich clothes: God’s righteousness
- Turban: Priestly authority – “Holy to the Lord”
- The 7 Eyes: The Holy Spirit
- A Single Day: The cross and Christ’s second coming

## The Meaning of the Vision

- Joshua is accused and rightly so by Satan the accuser
  - The right side is the place of the prosecutor
  - Joshua is wearing excrement smeared priestly garments
- Joshua is defended by the Lord
  - The Lord’s rebuke: censure angrily
  - The Lord has chosen Jerusalem

- Joshua is a stick snatched from the fire – has purpose and value
- Joshua's filthy clothes are taken away and replaced with rich clothes
  - Filthy clothes are a metaphor for sin – our righteousness is filthy rags
  - Rich, clean clothes are God's righteousness
  - Zechariah cries out for a clean turban, a restoration of God's authority
- Joshua's charge
  - If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements...then you will stand among the angels.
  - You are symbolic of things to come
  - A single day is coming when all sin will be removed - Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

### Thoughts for Reflection

- Have I realized my best efforts are filthy rags?
- Have I been listening to the accusing voice of Satan instead of the redeeming voice of Jesus?
- Have I accepted the rich, clean garments of restored righteousness?
- Have I understood my part in living according to the Lord's ways?
- Have I meditated on, with thanksgiving, the sacrificial work of Jesus who bought my rich clothes?