

Zechariah Lesson 35

12-17-2003

1. Last week I taught Zec 3:8 and when time expired we were about to study Zec 3:9.

1.1 As a change of pace, I want to provide you a translation of Zechariah chapter three from the Message Bible. Then I want to compare my expanded translation of chapter three.

1.2 By doing this you will be able to see what a great job the translators of the Message Bible have done and by comparison and comment we can all learn the meaning of the fourth of the eight night visions.

Message Bible

Zechariah Chapter Three

Next the Messenger-Angel showed me the high priest Joshua. He was standing before God's Angel where the Accuser showed up to accuse him. Then God said to the Accuser, "I, God, rebuke you, Accuser! I rebuke you and choose Jerusalem. Surprise! Everything is going up in flames, but I reach in and pull out Jerusalem!"

Joshua, standing before the angel, was dressed in dirty clothes. The angel spoke to his attendants, "Get him out of those filthy clothes," and then said to Joshua, "Look, I've stripped you of your sin and dressed you up in clean clothes."

I spoke up and said, "How about a clean new turban for his head also? And they did it - put a clean new turban on his head. Then they finished dressing him, with God's Angel looking on.

God's Angel then charged Joshua, "Orders from God-of-the-Angel Armies: "If you live the way I tell you and remain obedient in my service, then you'll make the decisions around here and oversee my affairs. And all my attendants standing here will be at your service.

"Careful, High Priest Joshua - both you and your friends sitting here with you, for your friends are in on this, too! Here's what I'm doing next: I'm introducing my servant Branch. And note this: This stone that I'm placing before Joshua, a single stone with seven eyes' - Decree of God-of-the-Angel-Armies -- I'll engrave with these words: "I'll strip this land of its filthy sin, all at once, in a single day."

"At that time, everyone will get along with one another, with friendly visits across the fence, friendly visits on one another's porches."

Zechariah Chapter Three - Expanded Translation

Zec 3:1 And then the interpreting angel showed me a scene in heaven; there I saw Joshua, Zerubbabel's High Priest, standing alongside the Lord Jesus Christ and beside Joshua stood Satan accusing Joshua of all manner of sin and evil.

Zec 3:2 And then the Lord Jesus said to Satan "I rebuke you Satan;" after all I am the One Who chose Jerusalem and is not this Israel whom I rescued from the fire.

Zec 3:3 Now Joshua, standing beside the Lord Jesus Christ, was attired in the regal garments of the High Priesthood but his garments were covered with excrement.

Zec 3:4 And the Lord Jesus said to the angels standing around Him "take from Joshua his filthy clothes;" then the Lord said to Joshua "see I have caused your iniquity to pass from you and I have clothed you in the sacred garments of the high priesthood."

Zec 3:5 Zechariah was so impressed by what he had seen, he proclaimed "place the bright and clean turban upon Joshua's head" and so they placed the turban of the High Priest on his head and the angels wrapped him in a robe of honor even as the Angel of The Lord stood near.

Zec 3:6 Then the Lord Jesus Christ solemnly affirmed to Joshua saying,

Zec 3:7 "The Lord of the Armies, My Father affirms in this manner: "if you will walk in my ways, if you will act as a guardian of My Word and if you yourself will properly rule and guard My Temple courts including the Holy Place and Holy of Holies, then will I let you govern the Temple and I will give to you authorization, power and privilege to walk among the angels who serve Me in the Third Heaven."

Zec 3:8 "Now I urge you Joshua as the High Priest, both you and your friends who sit before you as priest and many of those who will follow as priest, I want you to listen, hear and concentrate because each of you are a sign and therefore you must do your job conscientiously and expertly for you are all prototypes proclaiming the future coming of My Servant, the Branch."

Zec 3:9 Now Joshua take a look at the Stone which I have placed before you, a stone which has seven eyes" declares the Father, the Lord of the armies; "furthermore said the Father, the Lord of the Armies, "I shall engrave on that Stone the following "all sin and iniquity will be removed from the land in one day."

Zec 3:10 In that day," declares the Father," each of you, dwelling both in and out of the land, you shall call every man your friend for the Millennium will be a time of both worldwide peace and prosperity."

2. So much for fun and games, now I want to review some of that learned last week and then we will pick up with new material and our analysis of Zechariah's prediction of a redeemed and restored Israel under the Messiah, the Stone.

KJV

Zec 3:9 For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

NIV

Zec 3:9 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.

Working Translation: The Lord of the Armies declared "Now behold the Stone which I have placed before Joshua has seven eyes and upon that Stone I shall engrave the following inscription "In one day I shall remove sin from the land of Israel."

Principles:

1. Not only is Christ presented to Zechariah as a Servant-Branch, but now we see Him as the Stone.
2. The Servant-Branch describes Christ in His first advent role providing Israel's redemption at Calvary and making possible the restoration of Israel as a priestly nation.
3. It seems clear the reason two figures are used, one the Servant-Branch and the other the single Stone, is because one applies to the first and the other applies to the second advent of Christ.
4. Israel through word, deed and liturgy was to be the sign of both advents. Through the liturgy of the Priesthood they were to teach the meaning of the two advents.
5. Keep in mind there could be no Kingdom, even the Kingdom offered by Christ in c. A.D. 30, without His becoming the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world, the One who is led to the slaughter and the One upon Whom our sins would be placed.
6. Isaiah in Isa 53:6 made this clear.

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned everyone to his own way but God has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all.

7. Too often it is taught the Kingdom of Christ would have been implemented on earth had Israel accepted Him without the cross and resurrection; but such is not the case.

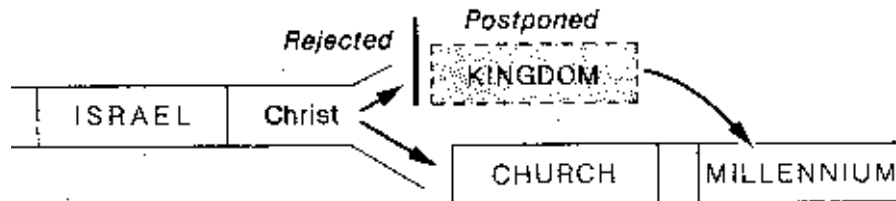
7.1 The cross and the resurrection was taught in the Old Testament. It is true had Israel accepted the Messiah, He would have implemented His Kingdom on earth but first he would have gone to the cross and been resurrected before the forever Kingdom. It was prophesied and taught in the liturgy and it was the duty of the Levite priests to proclaim what had been written of Him.

7.2 Two charts will help explain the offering and rejection of the Messiah's Kingdom.

First--what Israel looked for:

GENTILES				ISRAEL	KINGDOM
Positive Volition	Negative Volition	Noah's Family	Jewish Patriarchs	Jewish Client Nation	+
Creation of man	Fall of Adam	Flood	Abraham	Moses and the Exodus	Birth of Christ

Second--the offering and the rejection:



8. He was to be both the Servant-Branch and the Stone. The Servant-Branch we have covered, now let's learn of the Stone.

9. Daniel in Dan 2:34-35 told of Christ being the Stone cut without hands which will smite the kingdoms of the nations and become a "great mountain" (the millennium) to fill "the whole earth."

Dan 2:34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

Dan 2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

10. This destruction of the Satanic world system makes possible the millennial reign of Christ, which in turn restores Israel as a high priestly nation of which Joshua and his colleagues are "men of predictive portent."

11. This One Stone has been properly interpreted by men like Luther, Feinberg, Unger, Pentecost, Thieme and Ryrie as a symbol of Christ at His second coming when the "stumbling stone and rock of offense" of the first coming (Rom 9:32; 1Co 1:23) becomes the corner stone (Zec 4:7; 1Pe 2:6-7).

Rom 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Zec 4:7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

1Pe 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

1Pe 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

12. Zec 3:9 provides three pieces of corroborative evidence that the Stone is the Messiah:

12.1 Upon the Stone are seven eyes, speaking of God's infinite wisdom - Omniscience. The eyes are also symbolic of His Omnipresence. God therefore is not only all knowing but everywhere at the same time.

12.1.1 Eyes are used by Ezekiel to describe God as a wheel full of eyes going about the earth to judge.

Eze 1:18 The rims of the wheel were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around.

Eze 10:12 Their entire bodies, including their backs, their hands and their wings, were completely full of eyes, as were their four wheels.

12.1.2 Zechariah later speaks of the eyes of the Lord ranging over the earth.

Zec 4:10 "Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "(These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range throughout the earth.)"

12.1.3 John in the Revelation describes the Lamb of God in heaven (the Lord Jesus) as having seven eyes.

Rev 5:6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Rev 5:7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

12.1.4 Jeremiah says nothing is hidden from His eyes.

Jer 16:17 For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.

12.1.5 The writer of Proverbs tells us the eyes of the Lord are everywhere.

Pro 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

End Lesson Taught 12-17-2003