

### Zechariah 3

As we look at the struggles going on to resume the rebuilding, we get a glimpse into what is happening in the spiritual realm.

First let's introduce the characters in this drama we see unfold.

Joshua- not the Joshua who led them into the promised land, who has the book named after him. But Joshua the high priest who goes back with Zerubbel to rebuild.

\* High priest- *Responsibilities and Privileges* The high priesthood was a hereditary office based on descent from Aaron (Ex. 29:29-30; Lev. 16:32). Normally, the high priest served for life (Num. 18:7; 25:11-13; 35:25,28; Neh. 12:10-11),

A special degree of holiness was required of the high priest (**Lev. 10:6,9; 21:10-15**).

*If the high priest sinned, he brought guilt upon the whole people (Lev. 4:3). The sin offering for the high priest (Lev. 4:3-12) was identical to that required "if the whole congregation of Israel commits a sin" (4:13-21).*

*The consecration of the high priest was an elaborate seven-day ritual involving special baths, putting on special garments, and anointing with oil and with blood (Ex. 29:1-37; Lev. 6:19-22; 8:5-35). The special garments of the high priest included (1) a blue robe with an ornate hem decorated with gold bells and embroidered pomegranates, (2) an ephod of fine linen with colorful embroidered work and shoulder straps bearing stones engraved with the names of the twelve tribes, (3) a breastplate with twelve precious stones engraved with the names of the twelve tribes, and (4) a linen turban with a gold plate inscribed "Holy to Yahweh" (Ex. 28:4-39; 39:1-31; Lev. 8:7-9). The engraved plate and the stones engraved with the tribal names highlight the role of the high priest as the holy representative of all Israel before the Lord (Ex. 28:12,29). In his "breastplate of judgment," the high priest kept the sacred lots, the Urim and Thummim, which were used to inquire of the Lord (Ex. 28:29-30; Num. 27:21).*

***The high priest shared in general priestly duties. Only the high priest, however, was allowed to enter the holy of holies and then only on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16:1-25; for the details of the ritual, see Day of Atonement).***

Satan- the accuser of the brethren, adversary.

*Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:11*

- tempts, binds in sickness, sifts us as he did Peter, accuses us, deceives us, snatches the Word of God from people's heart before it can take root

### Angel of the Lord- Jesus Christ

v.1 Satan opposed Joshua, accused him and seemingly justified

- **Job 1:6 through Job 1:11 (NKJV)**

*<sup>6</sup>Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and <sup>7</sup>Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?"*

*So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."*

*<sup>8</sup>Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"*

*<sup>9</sup>So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"*

*<sup>10</sup>Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup>But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"*

- New Testament just before His death, Jesus tells Peter that Satan has asked to sift him like wheat

### **But- 1 John 2:1 (NKJV)**

*<sup>1</sup>My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

**Hebrews** tells us we have a high priest Who lives forever to make intercession for us

v.2 Joshua is the representative for Jerusalem

- brand or poker plucked from fire- saved

- Jude talks of save some with fear, pulling out of the fire

v.3 clothed with filthy garments- excrement covered

v.4 take the filthy ones and replace with clean rich clothes<sup>14</sup>

### Job 29:14

*<sup>14</sup> I put on righteousness, and it clothed me;  
My justice was like a robe and a turban.*

### Psalm 132:9

<sup>9</sup> *Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness,  
And let Your saints shout for joy.*

Isaiah 61:10

<sup>10</sup> *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,  
As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,  
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ- Paul says that I might be found in Him not having my righteousness but His

v.6-7 Joshua admonished

- grace does not mean that we can do whatever we want and all is well- Paul says shall we continue to sin that grace might abound? Certainly not

Branch- Isaiah 11:1

Stone- Daniel 2- stone that was cut without hands destroyed the worldly kingdoms  
- stone layed in Zion, cornerstone, foundation  
- 1 Peter 2 to close with verse 9