

DECEMBER 11, 2022  
10:30 AM

# THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

THE "HOW" OF CHRISTMAS  
ZECHARIAH 3:1-5



How does Jesus accomplish salvation? That's what we are going to look at today in [Zechariah 3](#), one of the most vivid pictures of the gospel you'll find. Part of the Christmas story is the story of redemption. The story of Christ's work on our behalf. We're reminded there was a debt to be paid and it was paid by Jesus.

## Welcome and Announcements

## Call to Worship

*Psalm 103:1-5*

## Songs of Praise

*O Come Let Us Adore Him/ We Adore You  
Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)*

## Confession of Faith

*New City Catechism #50*

*Q. What does Christ's resurrection mean for us?*

*A. Christ triumphed over sin and death by being physically resurrected, so that all who trust in him are raised to new life in this world and to everlasting life in the world to come.*

*Just as we will one day be resurrected, so this world will one day be restored. But those who do not trust in Christ will be raised to everlasting death.*

References - [1 Thessalonians 4:13-14](#)

## **Offering**

[Click to give online](#)

*Please prayerfully consider an online offering*

## **Song of Declaration**

*Holy Forever*

## **Advent Reading - The Mary Candle**

*Luke 1:46-49*

*Reading by John and Colleen Homon*

## **Confession of Sin**

*Almighty Father, You are the source of every good and perfect gift. We praise Your name for the greatest and most perfect gift: Your son, our Lord Jesus Christ. But in lifting Him up, we humble ourselves before You. We confess to You, not only our sins of omission in failing to do what we know is right, but also our sins of commission in doing what You forbid. O Lord, we are weak and feeble, slow to confess our sins and prone to wander from the path of righteousness. Do not deal with us as our sins deserve but wash us clean in the blood of the Lamb and empower us by Your Spirit to live to honor and serve our Savior King. We praise You that He was born like us that we might become like Him. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

*1 John 1:7-9*

## **Children's Message**

## **Sermon - The "How" of Christmas**

Sermon Scripture - [Zechariah 3:1-5](#)

## Introduction

- *"The Cross is not simply a lovely example of sacrificial love. Throwing your life away needlessly is not admirable - it is wrong. Jesus' death was only a good example if it was more than an example, if it was something absolutely necessary to rescue us. And it was. Why did Jesus have to die in order to forgive us? There was a debt to be paid - God himself paid it. There was a penalty to be born - God himself bore it. Forgiveness is always a form of costly suffering." - Tim Keller*

## Accuser

- **Who is the accuser in this passage?**
- **What is the significance of Joshua being the high priest?**
  - [Zechariah 3:3](#)
- **What is our standing outside of Christ?**
  - [Romans 6:23](#)
  - [James 1:15](#)

## Defender

- **What are two main reasons that reasons God saves us?**
  - [Zechariah 3:2](#)
  - [Ephesians 2:4-5](#)
- **How does this passage connect to [Ephesians 1:4-6](#)?**
  - *"If God hath chosen his people, then it is of no use for Satan to attempt their overthrow. Christ does not meet Satan with any ifs and buts...But he meets him with the high mysterious truth which was settled before the world was, he throws as it were this chain into his teeth and bids him champ that till he breaks his teeth. God hath chosen Jerusalem; let that be rebuke enough." - Charles Spurgeon*
- **How does this passage tie into the central message of the gospel?**

## Verdict

- **What does Jesus do for Joshua? Why is this significant?**
  - [Zechariah 3:4](#)
  - *"The essence of human sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us. We put ourselves where only God deserves to be; God puts himself where we deserve to be." - John Stott*
- **What is double imputation?**
- **How does [John 19:30](#) connect to the message of Christmas?**

## Song of Response

*I Delight In You (Psalm 1)*

## Benediction

1. Why is it important to focus on the entire ministry of Christ in the Christmas story as opposed to just the birth of Christ?
2. What happens when we don't have a proper understand of the weight of our sin?
3. How does God's plan of salvation glorify God?
4. Read [Ephesians 1:4-6](#). What do we learn about our election?
5. What is the significance of Jesus' statement in [John 19:30](#)?
6. Who is one person that you could invite to participate in a Christmas service this year?