

In Christ Part 4

Zechariah 3 NIV

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. **2** 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?”

3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. **4** 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 fine garments on you.”

5 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.

- Joshua was the high priest at the time. In Zechariah’s vision, he saw the high priest in the presence of the LORD
- The phrase **standing before** has the idea of priestly service. Joshua wasn’t just as a spectator but as a ministering priest in the presence of the Lord.
- Satan hated the whole scene. He hates it when God’s people come into the presence of the LORD. He hates it when they come into God’s presence to serve and honor the LORD.
- Satan's role and purpose was in pointing to Joshua’s (filthy clothes) and declaring forcefully that Joshua was unfit to stand before the Lord.

- This is all according to the character of **Satan**. The name **Satan** means adversary or opponent. He stands against us in every spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Vs. 2

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?”

- We see the LORD standing before **Satan** and preventing his accusation; either directly, if the Angel of the LORD is the pre-incarnate Christ. Or indirectly, if through the mouth of another Angel.

Vs. 3,4

3 Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. **4** 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 fine garments on you.”

- As Joshua, the high priest, stood in the presence of the LORD; Satan accused him on what seemed to be solid grounds.
- Joshua was guilty of standing before God in **filthy clothes**. Nevertheless, the LORD addressed the problem by cleansing Joshua, taking away the his filthy garments that represent his sin and shame and replacing them with fine garments.
- These fine garments represent righteousness, a righteousness that doesn't come from man, but from God.
- This is a foreshadowing of what's to come for everyone who puts their faith in Christ...

Romans 8 NKJV

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

- There is a wonderful, divine protect that comes from being in Christ...
- Protection from the Accusations of the Devil...
- Freedom from Condemnation...
- The calling is to be, in Christ and walk according to the Spirit...

Jesus said to His Disciples

John 15:13-15

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. **14** You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

- **The Disciples followed Jesus and obeyed his commands...**
- **Jesus shared with them everything he learned from His Father...**
- **And as a result, Jesus called them friends...**

Song: He walks with me

*I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The son of God discloses*

*And he walks with me and he talks with me
And he tells me I am his own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known*

There are 3 Chairs associated with Christ

1. Chair of Unbelief

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing...

2. Chair of Belief

- These are the multitude at the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5
- These are the five thousand that Jesus fed in Matthew 14
- These are those Jesus spoke of in Luke 9

57 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

59 He said to another man, "Follow me."

But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

- These are the believers

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

3. Chair of Fellowship

Mark 8 KJV

34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Matthew 8 NIV

19 Then a teacher of the law came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."

20 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

21 Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

22 But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Do you remember the story of the Rich Young Ruler?

Matthew 19

21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

22 When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

- **It's not that following Jesus was hard...**
- **It's just that the Rich Young Ruler needed to want Jesus more...**
- **more than His Possessions...**
- **more than His Wealth...**
- **The Teacher of the Law needed to want Jesus more than knowing where he would lay his head each night...**

- **For the Person to deny themselves, they need to want Jesus more than their pride...**
- **For the person to give up comfort, they have to want Jesus enough to carry a Cross...**

- **A Person has to value being with Him more than anyone else...**

**There were some who got to see Jesus speaking to the crowd...
Then there were those who got to hang out with Him at camp...
These are the ones who get up close...
Paul the Apostle desired to be close...**

Philippians 3 NIV

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8** What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Closing Song: