

Walking in Our Destiny: Silencing The Accuser (Zech. 3)

I. REVIEW OF APRIL 2014: FIVE THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY

- A. ***Season of increase:*** Our relational connections and influence in the nations is growing rapidly. This increase includes people being sent out by the Lord to join or start ministries.
- B. ***Season of persecution:*** We are in a season of increased persecution with more adversaries. This is an opportunity for promotion in the Spirit, *if* responded to rightly (1 Pet 4:14).
¹⁴If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. (1 Pet. 4:14)
- C. ***Season of mobilization:*** We are to function as a community of believers reaching out through friendship-based evangelism and disciple-making. In 1984, I had a prophetic dream in which a man said, ***“Proclaim Zechariah 4 and Ephesians 4, for this is where the Lord is taking you.”*** The Lord wants to establish an Ephesians 4 community with a foundation of prayer (Zech. 4).
- D. ***Season of divine discipline:*** A season of discipline is a time when the Lord *emphasizes* our need to correct various deficiencies (blind spots) in our love, humility, wisdom, zeal, or service, etc.
¹²Whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights. (Prov. 3:12)
- E. ***Season of pruning:*** The Lord prunes fruitfulness so that His people are more focused and fruitful. The Father is a vinedresser who *prunes* all who bear fruit.
²Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (Jn. 15:2)
- F. The purpose of the Father’s *pruning* is to *remove distraction* from an obedient believer, whereas the purpose of the Father’s *discipline* is to *remove deficiencies* (sin) from an immature believer. They are different. He does not prune sin. He prunes distractions that hinder our growth in love.

II. SOVEREIGN CONNECTION WITH JOHN WIMBER: TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

- A. In January 1984, Bob Jones told me that God was going to connect us with a movement based about 35 miles southeast of LA which had a banner over them—***“compassion and worship.”*** He was speaking about the Vineyard Ministries in California under John Wimber (1934–2007).
- B. In October 1987 Bob heard an audible voice saying that Wimber would call me in January 1988. On June 5, 1988, Bob again heard the audible voice of the Lord saying that John would call and open three large doors. He told me that there were about 50,000 people in the Vineyard and that Wimber impacted 1,000,000 worldwide.

- C. Bob said this was going to be a “Holy Spirit seminary season” that would last for three years. He said this was a **warning and not a promise** because I did not know how to “*go out and come in*” before the Lord and the people in the context of a million people—with many different human dynamics, with reproach, stigma, obstacles, etc. (that would be far more intense in the future).

III. QUALIFIED BY GRACE (ZECH. 3:1-10)

- A. In Zechariah’s first three visions, the Lord promised to manifest His glory in Israel (1:16; 2:10-12). The question arises, **how can a sinful and weak people like Israel walk in such promises?**
- B. The Lord answered in the next two visions (Zech. 3-4) by revealing the abundance of His grace. The visions focus on **Joshua** the high priest (Zech. 3) and **Zerubbabel** the governor (Zech. 4).
- C. The Lord addresses the **two main obstacles** that hinder His people from enjoying their destiny. The first obstacle is **our sin**; therefore He provides spiritual cleansing and renewal (Zech. 3). The next obstacle is **our lack of resources**; therefore He gives supernatural provision (Zech. 4). In other words, we need His grace for continued **spiritual renewal** and **supernatural provision**.
- D. Zechariah 3’s message: God forgives and **cleanses our hearts**, even from our greatest sins. Zechariah 4’s message: God provides for and **uses our work**, even in our smallest tasks. The first obstacle to overcome is the lie that we **fail too much** to be used by God (3:1-5). The next obstacle to overcome is the lie that we **lack too much** to complete God’s will (4:6-9).
- E. The Lord’s people are to be **confident in His love** that frees us from all condemnation (Zech. 3). The Lord’s people are to be **confident that He values** our small and difficult labors (Zech. 4).

IV. THE CLEANSING OF AND PROMISE TO JOSHUA THE HIGH PRIEST (3:1-7)

- A. **Summary:** In this heavenly scene (3:1-2), Zechariah saw Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord (the preincarnate Christ). Satan presented a case against Joshua, accusing him of not being qualified for leadership. The problem was that Joshua was in fact guilty (3:4). Joshua was fully cleansed and then called to walk in wholehearted obedience to the Lord (3:7).
¹Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose [accuse; NASB, NIV] him. (Zech. 3:1)
¹⁰...the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before God day and night... (Rev. 12:10)
- B. The Lord did not receive Satan’s accusation against Joshua, but rebuked Satan twice (3:2). The Lord will not tolerate Satan’s accusation against us. Neither should we. We must declare truth over our heart daily. The Lord rebuked Satan, not because the accusations against Joshua were false, but because of God’s gracious love for and sovereign choice of Joshua and Israel.

²The LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan!... ⁴He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity...and I will clothe you with rich robes.” (Zech. 3:2-4)

- C. The Lord admonished him to walk in wholehearted obedience (3:6-7) with a promise to walk among “these who stand here”—this refers to the angels who stand in God’s presence (3:4).

⁷“If you will walk in My ways [godly character], and if you will keep My command [perform My service; NASB], then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here.” (Zech. 3:6-7)