

ON TRIAL FOR YOUR LIFE

Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. **Zechariah 3:2** And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? **Zechariah 3:3** Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. **Zechariah 3:4** And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. **Zechariah 3:5** And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by. **Zechariah 3:8** Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. **Zechariah 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. **Zechariah 3:10** In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.

We here join a court in session through the eyes of Zechariah:

Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing **before the angel of the LORD**, and Satan (שָׂטָן) standing at his right hand to resist him.

Zechariah 3:8 Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: **for they are men wondered at:** for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. **Zechariah 3:9** ...**saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.** **Zechariah 3:10** In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.

Defendant: Joshua – Joshua → Israel → future Israel → all believers

Judge: (implicitly) The Triune God (Angel of the Lord, The Lord, Angel)

Prosecutor: Satan – the accuser of the brethren (not the false accuser)

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: **for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.**

Defense attorney: The Lord!

Witnesses for the prosecution & defense: Joshua himself!

3 lines of defense (looked at backwards):

1. Imputation: The Lord dresses us for His presence!

Zechariah 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

This case is much worse:

Zechariah 3:3 Now Joshua was clothed **with filthy garments**, and stood before the angel. **Zechariah 3:4** And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, **Take away the filthy garments from him.** And unto him he said, **Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.**

Philippians 3:4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: **Philippians 3:5** Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; **Philippians 3:6** Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. **Philippians 3:7** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. **Philippians 3:8** Yea doubtless, and I count **all** things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but **dung (σκύβαλα)**, that I may win Christ, **Philippians 3:9** And be found in him, **not** having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, **but** that which is through the faith of Christ, **the righteousness which is of God by faith:**

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, **and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Zechariah 3:4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, **Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.** **Zechariah 3:5** And I said, **Let them set a fair mitre upon his head.** So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

The great exchange / the happy exchange:

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. **Romans 10:2** For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but **not** according to knowledge. **Romans 10:3** **For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.** **Romans 10:4** For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. **Philippians 3:8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, **Philippians 3:9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **Philippians 3:10** **That I may know him....**

Alien Righteousness:

Zechariah 3:4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, **Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.**

Zechariah 3:5 And I said, **Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments.** And the angel of the LORD stood by.

2. Salvation: The Lord rescues us from the fire!

Zechariah 3:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: **is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?**

Amos 4:11 I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, **and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning**; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

Jude 23 And others save with fear, **pulling them out of the fire**; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

1 John 5:19 And we know that we are of God, **and the whole world lieth in wickedness.**

3. Election: The Lord chooses us for His own!

Zechariah 3:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, **The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee**: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

Zechariah 1:17 Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, **and shall yet choose Jerusalem.**

Zechariah 2:12 And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, **and shall choose Jerusalem again.**

2 Chronicles 6:6 But I have chosen Jerusalem, that my name might be there; **and have chosen David to be over my people Israel.**

Deuteronomy 7:6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth. **Deuteronomy 7:7** The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: **Deuteronomy 7:8** But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 10:14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

Deuteronomy 10:15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

1 John 4:19 We love him, **because** he first loved us.

