

Key Outcomes

This Bible study session examined Zechariah 3, using the vision of Joshua the High Priest in filthy garments as a framework for understanding Satan's role as accuser, God's grace in cleansing believers, and the imputed righteousness available through Christ. The central message: believers are chosen, justified, and restored to purpose — not by works, but by the blood of Christ.

Core Theological Themes

Satan as accuser: Stands before God opposing believers with charges that often carry an element of truth — "You failed," "You're not worthy," "God can't use you." [Citation]

Jesus as advocate: When Satan accuses, Christ intercedes — "I paid the price; she belongs to us" — and Satan loses the controversy. [Citation]

God's rebuttal: The Lord rebukes Satan by declaring His choice — "Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" — silencing accusation through election, not merit. [Citation]

Imputed righteousness: Believers cannot make themselves righteous; God removes filthy garments and clothes believers in Christ's righteousness — salvation by grace, not works. [Citation][Citation]

Romans 8:33 anchor: "Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies." No accusation of Satan can ultimately stand against the justified. [Citation]

The Vision Explained (Zechariah 3)

Joshua's filthy garments = symbolic of Israel's sinful state after 70 years of Babylonian exile, absorbing the habits of surrounding

nations. [Citation]

Cleansing in verses 4–5: God commands removal of filthy garments and replacement with rich robes and a clean turban — a picture of sanctification and ongoing cleansing. [Citation][Citation]

Verses 6–7 (responsibility): After cleansing, God restores Joshua to priestly duty — "If you keep my commands, you shall judge my house" — cleansing always comes with purpose. [Citation]

Verses 8–10 (Messianic pointer): Joshua's restoration is incomplete; the vision points forward to "the Branch" (the Messiah) who removes the iniquity of the land in one day — fulfilled at the crucifixion.

[Citation][Citation]

Practical Applications

Counter accusation with the Word: When Satan brings up the past, respond — "I am justified; as if I never sinned." Bring every negative thought into subjection to Scripture. [Citation]

Condemnation vs. conviction: The Holy Spirit convicts and leads to forgiveness; condemnation is from Satan, not God. [Citation]

New identity: Believers are new creations — past failures do not define them. "Don't fish in my past; that's not who I am." [Citation]

Cleansed for service: God does not cleanse believers for inactivity — ask God what specific role, gift, or area of service He has called you to. [Citation][Citation]

Sharing Christ: Draw others to Christ through love and good works, not rules and condemnation — "You don't have to agree with people to love them." [Citation][Citation]