

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Clean Clothes**

ZECHARIAH 3:1-10

OVERVIEW

Nearly 20 years after their return from the Babylonian exile in the time of Cyrus (538 B.C.), discouragement dogged God's people, replacing their earlier enthusiasm. The foundation of the temple had been laid shortly after the initial return, but powerful opposition had prevented any further progress on rebuilding the temple. Faithful obedience was viewed by many as useless: pragmatically, it made more sense to pursue the best life possible in spite of the present difficulties.

Zechariah addressed such discouragement by reminding his hearers that, though hidden, God's envoys were watching everything, and that when the time was right, he would act to reorder the universe. Ultimately God will redeem his flock and rescue his city for his glory and his people's joy. (Adapted from *ESV Study Bible*)

APPLY // ZECHARIAH 1:7-2:13

1. Read Zechariah 2:1-13.
2. How does this passage encourage you to praise the Lord for who he is?
3. How does this passage help you look to and hope in heaven?

STUDY // ZECHARIAH 3:1-10

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God's word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Zechariah 3:1-10.
 - a. Vision Four: Zechariah sees Joshua, the high priest, a representative of the people before God, cleanses and called to live faithfully. He is given the assurance that God is preserving his people for the messianic Branch.
2. In this fourth vision, Zechariah sees Joshua, the high priest (cf. Haggai 1:1). What's the significance of the high priest's role among Israel? See Hebrews 5:1.
3. What is Satan doing?
4. What is the Lord's response?
5. What is Joshua wearing?
6. What does the angel of the Lord/the Lord say he will do? Notice the text says, "I have taken away your iniquity...I will clothe you." Who does the work? Why is this significant?
7. What's the significance of "pure vestments" and "clean" clothes? See Exodus 28:26-38 for note on turban.

- a. So when God works salvation: He rebukes our adversary (v. 2); then plucks us from the pit(v. 2b); removes our dirty sins(v. 4); the clothes us with rich robes of righteousness(v. 4b); then crowns our head with a turban of holiness(v. 5).
 8. What's the command in verse 6-7? Why is it important to recognize this command comes after the cleansing in verses 1-5?
 9. What's the promise of verse 7?
 10. What does the Lord explain to Joshua in verses 8-9?
 - a. The Lord explains to Joshua that he and his friends who were sitting there with him are "men who are a symbol." The word means that they are a "sign of a future event." Their very existence after the exile was an indication of God's commitment to bless his people. The future held an even greater blessing, the coming of my servant the Branch.
 - b. The Lord gives them the prophecy that He will bring in "My servant the Branch."
 - i. "My Servant the Branch"—Both "servant" and "branch" are names for Messiah ("servant," Isa. 42:1; 53:11; "branch," Isa. 4:2; 11:1; 53:2; Jer. 23:5; 33:15). Both terms point to Messiah in His lowliness and humiliation in His first coming, as the shoot of David.
 - c. He also sets before Joshua "the stone," which has seven eyes and an inscription that God will engrave on it.
 - i. "The Stone"—most scholars agree that this also refers to Messiah, in line with a number of biblical references (Ps. 118:22; Isa. 28:16; Matt. 21:42; Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:6).
 11. At the end of verse 9 what does the Lord promise? What does it mean he will "removed the iniquity of this land in a single day"?
 12. What does the Lord promise in verse 10? What does it mean that "every one of you" will have his own vine and fig tree?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How are you doing knowing that in Christ we are clean? Are there areas where you have hiding unrepentant sin? Does guilt or shame speak louder than the truth of the gospel?