

# Connection Group Participant Guide

May 16, 2021

## Zechariah 3

Zechariah's fourth vision shows the returned remnant that God would cleanse and restore as a priestly people before Him. He would remove their defilement so that they could again serve Him. As with most of Zechariah's visions, it is designed to give hope and encouragement to the Lord's chosen people.

Before we apply this text to ourselves on an individual level, we need to understand that the proper interpretation of Zechariah 3 is national and prophetic in scope. Joshua, as the high priest, is representative of the nation Israel. The picture here is of God restoring His people corporately to their place as "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exod. 19:6). The ultimate final fulfillment of this still awaits the Messiah's second coming.

But the vision had an immediate application to the people who were rebuilding the temple, to show them that they were not laboring in vain. It also applies to us who are seeking to build God's living temple, the church (Eph. 2:20-22). How can we as sinners serve a holy God?

### Highlight

Who is the Lord going to bring in (Zech. 3:8)? To whom does this refer? For further study, see also, Isa. 11:1; Isa. 53:2; Jer. 23:5; Jer. 33:15; Zech. 6-12.

### Explain

In view of the cross and Romans 8:31-39, how specifically does Jesus not only remove our 'filthy clothes', but also 're clothe' His people with righteousness?

### Apply

Take a few minutes to read aloud the Scripture from Zechariah 3:1-10, Hebrews 4:13, Revelation 12:10, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 8:31-34, 38-39. What verses or ideas stand out to you from these passages?

### Respond in Prayer

Read through Isaiah 54 and listen with your heart to what it has to say. We recommend praying through this text on your own at home and together with your Connection Group.

