

CHURCH OF NIGERIA (Anglican Communion)

## **DIOCESE OF LAGOS WEST**

Archbishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral, GRA – Ikeja

**BIBLE EXPOSITION OUTLINE: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2020**

**DIOCESAN THEME:** *“the just shall live by faith” - Rom. 1:17b*

**THEME:** *Jesus our High Priest*

### **ZECHARIAH 3**

The high priest of Israel was the nation's primary representative before God. He alone could enter into the presence of the Lord. Even then, he was allowed to go into the holy of holies only once a year, on the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. Then he could enter only after the blood of sacrificial animals was shed, first to cover his own sins and then to cover those of his people. The Jewish people themselves had no direct, personal access to God.

Under the Old Testament economy, the people received no forgiveness of sin, only covering of their sins. The New Testament Book of Hebrews offers an explanation and emphasizes the necessity of the final sacrifice through Christ. “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins ... And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering often the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God, From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified” (Heb. 10:4, 11–14).

The important thing to note in Zechariah 3 is not who Joshua was as an individual but the position he held as high priest. He stood as the designated representative of the whole household of Israel. This is the emphasis around which the drama of the vision unfolded.

### **POINTS TO NOTE**

1. Zechariah saw Joshua the high priest carrying on the function of intercession before the angel of the Lord. 3:1-3
2. Satan, the great adversary and opposer of God and His people, stood at the right hand of the angel of the Lord to oppose him. This is nothing new; it is what Satan has been doing since his fall. On this occasion he accused Joshua of standing before God in “filthy garments” 3:1a,3
3. As Israel's high priest stood silent before the Lord, God intervened on behalf of both Joshua and the people of Israel.
4. Satan was severely rebuked and reminded that God Himself had chosen Israel and Jerusalem. Deut. 7:7- 8, Jer. 31:3

5. The angel of the Lord told the other angelic beings standing by Joshua to remove the filthy robes from the high priest. Those robes represented the sin and uncleanness of the nation of Israel. 3:4
6. Neither Joshua nor Israel could do anything to remove their own iniquity. None of us can do anything to rid ourselves of sin.
7. The act of removing the filthy clothing speaks of justification, the new and festive clothes given to the high priest show that he and all believers can be made pure and clean before the Lord.3:5
8. Joshua was to pay strict attention to God's standards for his life. He was to make a total commitment to the Lord, setting aside anything that would turn him away from that commitment.
9. He was to be faithful in his official duties to the Lord as well as in his personal life. As was true with this servant of God, anyone who is to serve the Lord properly must be totally committed to Him.
10. Joshua was to be rewarded for faithful service.3:7; Isa.45:19b
11. Following Joshua's cleansing and commission, the focus is centered on the High Priest who was yet to come, which was called the BRANCH. 3:8; Isa. 4:2; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 6:12
12. The coming High Priest was also referred to as THE STONE which will destroy the Gentiles world powers and establish His Kingdom which shall never be destroyed. 3:9, Dan.2:34,44-45, Isa.28:16; Ps.118:22-23
13. National redemption of Israel will come in a day not stated and peace at last. 3:9-10

## LESSONS

1. The ministry of intercession is a kind of ministry all should get involved.Isa.59:19,63:5; Ezek.22:30
2. Sin will be judged. Rev.20:12-13, Heb.9:27; 1 Joh.4:17;2 Cor.5:10
3. The sin of those who accepted the Lordship of Jesus has been judged at the cross. 2 Cor. 5:21; Isa.53:6,9
4. Satan is still in the business of accusation today, condemning for past sin and making us fill guilty when it has already been pardoned. Rom. 8:1, Heb.10:17;Jer. 31:34
5. It is our responsibility to resist Satan today. 1 Pet.5:8-9, Jas.4:7;Eph. 4:27
  - a. We have been given the power. Lk.10:19; Mk.16:18
  - b. He has been placed under our feet. Eph.1:22
  - c. He has been stripped of his power.Col.2:15
  - d. He's not whom we think he is.Eph.6:11b
6. God has chosen us in Christ as His elects (Israel) not by right or our righteous deeds but by His own will.1 Pet.2:9,
7. Removal of our sins requires a pardon that can be given only through the grace of God. Jesus stepped across time and space to intervene in this world on behalf of lost Jews and Gentiles alike. Rom.5:6-11

8. Through the substitution death of Jesus we receive justification, glory and royalty. Rom.8:30; Gal.2:16; Joh.17:22
9. Life of commitment is expected from us after justification. Joh.14:15; Eph.4:8,15
10. Life of service is part of our calling. Rom.12:11; Jon.15:2,16
11. God promise to reward our act of commitment and service both now and eternity. Mk.10:30
12. Jesus was called the branch in old testament which correspond to the four gospels
  - a. The branch of David. Isa.11:1, Jer. 23:5; 33:15. This corresponds to Matthew, who presents Him as the King of the Jews.
  - b. My servant the branch. Zech.3:8. This corresponds to Mark, who presents Him as the lowly slave.
  - c. The Man whose name is the branch. Zech.6:12-13. This corresponds to Luke, who presents Him as the perfect man.
  - d. The Branch of Jehovah. Isa.4:2. This corresponds to Matthew, who presents Him as the Mighty God
13. Jesus being prophesied as the Cornerstone. Isa.28:16; Ps.118:22; Matt.21:42; Acts 4:11; Eph.2:20-21. Thus
  - a. To the Gentiles, He is the Stone of crushing. Dan. 2:34,35,44
  - b. To the Jews, He is the stumbling stone. Rom.9:31-33
  - c. To the believers, He is the salvation Cornerstone. Eph.2:19-22

## **CONCLUSION**

New Testament believers have greater privileges than did Joshua. "For we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:15–16). We have direct access to the throne of God, but to have a close walk with the Lord we must have purity of heart, just as the Lord required of Joshua the high priest. Sin hinders prayer (Isa. 59:1–2). We must keep our minds and bodies pure to experience the blessing God has for us as we approach Him.