

Zechariah Chapters 3 and 4, September 1, 1935 (three pages)

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Zech. Chapters 3 and 4.

I am going to read a few verses of Scripture from the 3rd Chap. of Zech. I have always been persuaded that in the book of Zech. God had a very special message to the Church. In the 4th Chap. we find what I consider to be the most complete and outstanding revelation in symbolical form, of the Church of Christ in these last days and in the same chapter we have the foundation for all spiritual operation laid on the lines drawn by the Holy Ghost when He said to Zech. --"It is not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit".

I suppose that until Jesus does come, in the periods of time immediately preceding that coming, that there will be a rising and falling of the spiritual tide, not only in the church but in the hearts of men. There can be no rise and fall of spiritual tides and powers in the church unless those risings and fallings first take place in the individual members of the body of Christ, and always men have been found after that fashion. It seems to make no difference what God does for a man or how wonderfully He may use him, there are always to be found powers of Satan resisting and opposing the spiritual powers and progress of men and women. Now that is a bible truth.

Here we have the revelation of Joshua, the High Priest, possibly the last high priest in the temple prior to its destruction and the 70 years captivity of the Jews in Babylon, and here we find him standing before the Lord, and at his right hand Satan stood to resist him. Satan has always tried and tempted the people of God and in these days we find no exception to the rule of the Gospel. If ever Satan stood at the right hand of God's people to destroy the Spirit of God in your life it is right now. He seems not only to stand at our right hand but seems almost to be inside....almost undertaking to enter in and rule and sway the hearts of men from their right attitude towards God. I know that strange thing is true today; men and women are listening to the voice of the Tempter and they are yielding to the power of Satan as he comes to them, sometimes even as an Angel of Light. He comes to destroy their efficiency and power in a spiritual sense.

The great need for God's people today is in the over-whelming baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire of God. We need to be refilled, re-baptised. When we are baptised in water we are simply saturating the exterior for that is but one part of this great Christian baptism; but when we are baptised with the Holy Spirit we are saturated not only on the outside with the Spirit of God but that Spirit baptism has penetrative powers that move into your whole being and move the whole man for God.

Here we have the High Priest, the only man who could enter into the Holiest of all and represent the people of God. Here we see him clothed in filthy garments. Even men of God can get filthy and unholy and unclean....even the saints of God. And sometimes I think we have catered to Satan too much, and because we do not by the Spirit in us, rebuke the powers of the enemy, they control us in these last days. You feel all crowded in ..."we wrestle not with flesh and blood"

I have nothing in my heart but love for all mankind. I want to do them all the good I can. But sometimes we give way to Satan and the garments become stained and Satan comes a little closer until men yield and soon Satan assumes complete dominion over their actions and thought-life.

God is talking to my heart about a higher standard. I have gone through many holy wonderful Christian experiences. When I think of what God has done for me and the miracles He has wrought in my life, and then I think that I have allowed even the cares of the Church to crowd out my prayer life it doesn't make any difference what crowds it out as long as it is crowded out. We are surrounded by spiritual wickedness in high places and Satan is determined to crowd every Christian out. He is going to stand at your right hand until, if you can be discouraged and overwhelmed, you will be.

Thank the Lord, there is another Personality in the picture. Not only was Satan there, but the Lord was there. Not only is Satan striving for dominion and lordship over you here, but there is another marvelous Power of Almighty God vested in the blessed Holy Ghost that is striving through you and me and we are the only instruments God has to use. Satan has millions of people at his beck and call. Every nation has forgotten God, so it seems. It seems that the world is going down under an avalanche, of unbelief and sin. Nations and men and governments and kings have forgotten God and left Him out and give Him no place and today

and today the world is tottering on such a brink of chaos that has never been dreamed of, because men listen to Satan. Christians are in the same place today because they listen to that demon power. But, thank God, Satan has a Master....one that will ultimately destroy him. It is for you and me to put ourselves before the throne in such a way that God can pour on us and in us the Blessed Holy Spirit. One of these Beings on this earth will hold back myriads of demons ... "a thousand will fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee." I am looking for a place in God where He will so charge my whole being with the Holy Ghost. One Spirit-filled man on the side of Holy God will bring to a halt a whole army. "It is not by might, nor by power, but by the blessed Holy Spirit."

The history of the Apostles have never been written. All we know of the lives of the twelve spirit-filled men is a little tradition. We know nothing of the long years of the ministry of those twelve; nothing of the marvelous demonstrations of the glory and power that accompanied them through their journeys on the earth. We know something of Paul and James and others, but they were all faithful and true. They were "wells of living water". Streams of God's eternal power flowed from them. They were men like we are but they were consecrated to God and my heart burns this afternoon to find myself in a place of power like they were; where the Spirit of God can flow from my innermost being. If we could be this way, evil thoughts couldn't get in. Just like an artesian well --- if you throw anything in it, it washes it right out. Christ said, it shall be within us rivers of living water. Those rivers flow from within. What a marvelous thing it is to find ourselves consecrated and connected within to golden pipes and the oil flowing through us and no room for uncleanness. It is a great thing to get it inside. A wonderful thing to have a springing well inside.

As I read the scripture and found the High Priest clothed with filthy garments, suddenly the voice of the Angel of the Lord said "Take away the filthy garments from him." I will clothe him with change of raiment." The clothing of righteousness -- the beautiful garments of the righteousness of Christ Jesus.

Oh, my Brethren, may I say to you that God has made the same provision for you. In Christ He takes off your filthy garments. And He tells me that my iniquity has been purged. What a wonderful thing to be a clean, holy, Christian man and woman. To be a man and woman filled with the blessed Holy Spirit of God. I feel, in my heart, that you and I need to come before the Lord again. It is no disgrace, when we look at the record of our bible, for a church or a congregation or an individual christian to find themselves at a low ebb. I don't mean in sin or wickedness, but there are times when oppressions are so tense that you can hardly breathe. Moses had a place like that and he couldn't take another step and he said, "Oh, Lord, show me thye Glory." "I have gone as far as I can go, but now conditions are such and failure is written on every side. I must stand still until you show me your Glory."

I feel, Brethren, that Pentecost is in somewhat a similar condition. Oh, if God would give everyone of us a new vision. Open our eyes and show us as He did Joshua, that his filth was gone and he was clothed with God's cleanness. And later, as we read, God tells him that "I will bring forth my Prince." That is Christ Jesus. All these are stepping stones for your revelation that is needful before we can break through those bands that hold us. In reading your bible you know how the conflict is going to terminate. Jesus is coming, and is coming on time. You will find the nearer we get to the coming of the Lord, the more desperate will be the efforts of Satan to destroy God's people. Just before Israel left Egypt, when Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "Let God's people go", their work began to increase. He made them gather their own straw, and finally to make bricks without straw and today you can see those bricks. The lower layers are made with straw and in the last layers there is no straw. They felt, every day, that the burden was too heavy and they sighed by reason of their bondage. It is a mistake for God's people to expect sliding into their own flowery beds of ease. The devil is on your track and he will be more and more. But just as the boys found themselves in the terrific burning and heat of that furnace, suddenly, in their midst, the Son of God was found holding the fires away. That furnace was heated seven times hotter than usual.

I am ready to say that the devil is heating up the furnace. He is stoking up the trials and testing for God's people, but somehow we love to be a captive, anyway; to belong to God. It is a real joy. Show me the pleasure of this earth that I would trade for the joy God has in my soul because H counted me worthy to be singled out from the nations of the world, as one man

fit to become a Christian and gave me wisdom to appreciate the place in which He called me to work for Him.

We have nothing against any man or woman. "We wrestle not with flesh and blood" but still we find ourselves in the conflict. Those powers of darkness know that Jesus is coming soon. They know this and they are going to press down on your heart and experience and maybe the fire will be heated 7 times hotter and the temptations will come thicker and faster, but what a joy to know that the Son of God stands by; that He has purged our iniquity if your sin is still with you it is because you are holding on to it. You may say, "He has done that with your sin but not with mine." Brethren, it is universal. He has placed at your disposal the wonderful garments of His righteousness. After the High Priest was clothed then came the revelation of the fact that God was going to bring forth His Prince, Jesus Christ.

I believe in everybody seeking the Holy Ghost. If you desire to be like God I wouldn't even stop to think whether you were born again. I have seen thousands of people who didn't know anything about being born again, seeking the Holy Ghost. God will see that you are born again if you are hungry for the baptism. I said to God, "I don't know when I was born again, but I said, God, fix me up," and He did. It is a wonderful thing to get in touch with God. You never can go into Glory on my experience and I can't go in on yours. This HOPE we have is an anchor that holds us. It is a marvelous thing to get it in you and it holds you. There are so many hungry and thirsty for God. Just come to the Lord. Put yourself before Him as a consecrated candidate for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Say, "Here I am. Make this temple of mine a temple for the Holy Spirit of God.

It is not only necessary to say "Yes, I received the baptism in 1910, but the vital question is, "Are you baptised with the Holy Ghost in 1935?" Has the anointing remained, if we are going to have that sweet and Holy Presence? It is a company of people with one heart and one mind intent on worshipping God, that makes people get saved. When our hearts are right and we worship Christ and love God -- when men and women come into this place, people will know that God is here and the Spirit will move on them and they will get under conviction. I miss that wonderful, holy, solemn spirit on the Congregation. It is the presence of the Spirit that we need.....actually, literally living in this place. Folk go to church with so many thoughts in their mind. We can even give God our thoughts for a little while. I want to plead with this Congregation; I want to see us both together in one Spirit, of one heart and one mind. Paul says, "When they come in they will fall on their face and they will confess that God is here of a truth." Shall we live our lives to that end? Without the Holy Ghost we are nothing.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit" saith the Lord of Hosts.

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