



A Branch Rescued From The Fire

Zechariah 3



“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side **to accuse him.**”

Zechariah 3:1



Have you ever been
accused?



“The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! **Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”**”

Zechariah 3:2



“Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.”

Zechariah 3:3-4



“Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.”

Zechariah 3:4



“Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.”

Zechariah 3:5



“Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: **holy to the Lord**. Fasten a blue cord to it to attach it to the turban; it is to be on the front of the turban. It will be on Aaron’s forehead, and he will bear the guilt involved in the sacred gifts the Israelites consecrate, whatever their gifts may be. It will be on Aaron’s forehead continually **so that they will be acceptable to the Lord**.

Exodus 28:36-38



**Tension of two
experiences**



Who am I?



am I how I feel?



am I what I have done?

Who am I? This or the Other?

Am I one person today and tomorrow another?

Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
And before myself a contemptible woebegone
weakling?

Or is something within me still like a beaten army
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of
mine.

Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am thine!

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer



The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.

Zechariah 3:6-7



‘Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, **the Branch**.

See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

Zechariah 3:8-9



“Not by might, nor by power,
but **by my Spirit**, says the Lord
of hosts.”

Zechariah 4:6



“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”

Hebrews 10:14



“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9



“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8



“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,”

1 Peter 3:18