**A BURNING STICK SNATCHED FROM THE FIRE**

Zechariah 3:1-4

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**INTRODUCTION**

As a prophetic book, Zechariah is similar to Ezekiel in that he sees and describes numerous strange objects and tells how God is speaking through them to His people. God can use the simplest object to teach a great spiritual truth. In the passage we will consider today, Zechariah talks about something he sees in Heaven and then gives us another of those simple object lessons. Let us see what we can learn from this interesting passage.

1. **A HEAVENLY SIGHT**
2. God’s servant stands **before** God in Heaven.
3. God’s servant stands before God **on** **behalf** **of** God’s people.
4. God’s servant is like a burning stick **saved** from the fire.

*God’s servants, ministers that have been saved by the grace of God, have responsibility to come before God on behalf of His people. Ministers are to lift up God’s people in prayer. They are to love and care for the Flock.*

1. **A DEVILISH SIGHT**
2. God’s servant has an **enemy** who seeks to defeat his efforts.
3. God’s servant faces unending **accusations** from Satan.
4. God’s servant does not face Satan **alone**, as God **rebukes** him.

*Satan is the enemy of all of God’s servants, including you and me. Satan is always busy accusing us of one thing or another in his attempts to defeat and destroy us. Fortunately, God speaks up for and acts in our behalf.*

1. **A FILTHY SIGHT**
2. God’s people were filthy from **participating** in sin while unbelievers.
3. God’s people become filthy because of **interaction** with the satanic environment.
4. God gives His people new clothes—“rich clothes” of **salvation** (v. 4).

*As God’s people, we are constantly being dirtied by the filth of the world as we go about our daily activities of life. Thus, God gives us provision for daily cleansing: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify [cleanse] us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).*

**CONCLUSION**

God’s people had rebelliously sinned against God, and God had sent them into exile in Babylon for 70 years. Now, He is in the process of returning His people back to their homeland in their filthy bondage rags. When they return, one of the first things God requires is a time of repentance and restoration. In effect, God gives them new robes of righteousness. The people will be expected to confess and repent each day so that sin will not gain a stranglehold in their lives again. God fights for His people! God fights for you and me! Will you stand before Him?

*“To God be the glory, to God be the glory;*

*To God be the glory for the things He has done.*

*With His blood He has saved me; With His power He has raised me;*

*To God be the glory for the things He has done.”*