

Satan, The Lord rebuke you, oh Satan: is not this that is the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you; is not this one man, is not this one city, is not this one people, as a brand plucked from the burning? Certainly he's a sinner, and if you get real nasty about it, all he deserved was Hell and damnation, but here is a brand plucked from the burning, and the Lord says, get away from him, Satan. And then in the next three verses, 3, 4 and 5, you see Joshua cleansed. He has dirty garments on, he's a sinner, he's participated in the things of the world, and the angel of the Lord says, take the filthy garments away from him. Put a mitre on his head. Clothe him with clean linen, because I have caused his iniquity to pass. This is reassurance. You sometimes find shortcomings in your life. Confess them to God. He's faithful to forgive, He's faithful to cleanse from unrighteousness, He causes our iniquity to pass, as it were.

And Zechariah is pointing back to Israel is that they had sinned but if they trusted in God, that sin would be cared for by a wonderful God of grace. Verse 6 through 7, He says to Joshua, if you will keep my words, if you will do my will, you'll walk in my ways and I'll give you a place to stand among the heavenly hosts. And then in verse 8 through 10 He gives them, perhaps, ^{one of} the better known promises of the book. He says in these verses, I will send forth my servant, the BRANCH. I will send Messiah. The stone that was laid before Joshua, not laid in front of him before Joshua, but in time past, that foundation stone laid in Zion from Genesis 3:15 onward and eternity backward as well. The stone that's laid before Joshua, He says, that stone will have seven eyes on it. That stone will be