



A Reason for Thanksgiving

It's been almost a month since we sent out the last devotional! Our plan to do weekly messages was swallowed up by more urgent time-sensitive

issues at the start of the year, but hopefully we will get back on schedule.

I started two different devotionals on Thanksgiving this week, and both were not coming together. I thought perhaps I was trying to do too many things, and so abandoned the rough drafts and admitted defeat – planning to postpone my efforts until next week.

Today was designated a “study day”, and I have spent the morning trying to catch up on the reading for my Old Testament class. In the course of that reading, I came across a passage from Zechariah that I feel called to share with all of you, as we prepare for Thanksgiving.

In the book of Zechariah, approximately 50,000 Jews have recently returned to Israel after living in exile in Babylon for 70 years. They are beginning to rebuild their lives, their homes and the temple, and are operating under the leadership of Joshua, (High Priest), and Zerubbabel

(Governor – from the line of David). Zechariah receives a series of 8 night visions from God. Here is the third:

"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. 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?"

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."

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

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....

*Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, **who are men symbolic of things to come.** I am going to bring my servant, the Branch ... and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day." (Zechariah 3:1-9)*

As we stand in His presence, the Lord is rebuking Satan for his accusations against us. May we all remember that we too are clothed in His righteousness. Our filthy clothes have been removed and have been replaced with rich garments.

That's a reason for Thanksgiving if I ever heard one :-)!

Blessings on you this holiday weekend!

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