

2026

out

POSTEXILIC PROPHETS

HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH & MALACHI

COVENANT^{EFC}

CRY

2026

out

STUDY 4
“BEING CLEAN”
(Zechariah 3: 1-10)

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WELCOME

Ice-breaker Activity: "Clean Slate"

- We all sometimes wish we could have a "clean slate" in certain areas of our lives. This connects to our theme of spiritual cleansing in Zechariah 3.
- Each person shares (in 1min or less): "If I could start fresh with a clean slate in one area of my life, it would be..."





WORSHIP

**Worship Jesus our great High Priest
who lives to intercede for us and
purify us from every sin.**

- [Before the Throne of God Above \(Kristyn Getty\)](#)
- [There Is A Fountain \(Reawaken Hymns\)](#)
- [Jesus Paid It All \(Fernando Ortega\)](#)
- [Refiner's Fire \(Brian Doerksen\)](#)





WORD

STRUCTURE OF ZECHARIAH



PRELUDE:
“Return to Me”
(1:1-6)



**ZECHARIAH’S
VISIONS**
(1:7 - 6:15)



**ZECHARIAH’S
MESSAGES**
(7 - 8)



**ZECHARIAH’S
ORACLES**
(9 - 14)

Source: adapted from Andrew E. Hill
(Tyndale Old Testament Commentary)

Activity 1: Lectio Divina (Zechariah 3:1-10)

- Get one member of the CG to read Zechariah 3:1-10 out loud, while the rest listen in silence.
- Maintain silence for 2 minutes, reflecting on what stood out for you as you heard that reading. What is the Spirit of God drawing your attention to?
- Another member of the CG can read Zechariah 3:1-10 out loud a second time.
- Maintain silence for another 2 minutes, again listening to what the Spirit of God may be saying to you.

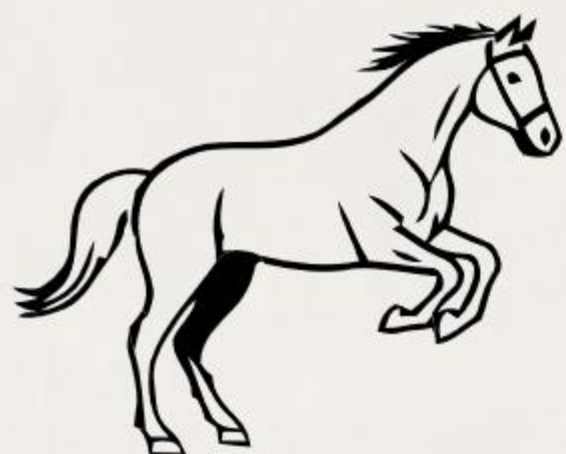
The Context of Zechariah 3:1-10

- When the word of the Lord came to Zechariah in the fall of 520 B.C., God's people in Jerusalem would have been discouraged, for three reasons:
 1. The city walls lay in ruins. They were not protected against invaders.
 2. The temple was absent. Work on the temple had stalled for many years.
 3. The leadership of the province was in flux. Zerubbabel had only been appointed as governor months before.*
- Zechariah 3 is the 4th of 8 night visions given to Zechariah, focusing on spiritual cleansing and restoration.

* Adapted from Gregory, Bryan R. *Longing for God in an age of discouragement: the Gospel according to Zechariah*. P & R Publ., 2010.

Context: What were the 8 night visions?

- The visions in Zechariah 1:7–6:15 are often referred to as the “night visions.” Bryan Gregory summarises the 8 visions beautifully:



Vision of the horseman (1:7-17)
Theme: longing for the **peace** of God



Vision of the horns and blacksmiths (1:18-21)
Theme: longing for the **justice** of God



Vision of the measuring line (2:1-13)
Theme: longing for the **presence** of God



Vision of the high priest (3:1-10)
Theme: longing for the **righteousness** of God



Vision of the lampstand and olive trees (4:1-14)
Theme: longing for the **purposes** of God



2 visions of the scroll and woman in a basket (5:1-11)
Theme: longing for the **authority** of God



Vision of the four chariots (6:1-8)
Theme: longing for the **victory** of God

Context: Who was Joshua the High Priest?

- We've encountered him before in Haggai 1:1-11.
- His lineage can be traced through his father Jehozadak to the great priest Zadok and ultimately to Aaron, brother of Moses and first high priest of Israel.*
- Joshua and Zerubbabel were key leaders (one priestly, one royal) in the second phase of the restoration of Jerusalem
- Joshua represented both the spiritual *leadership* of God's people and the spiritual *condition* of God's people
- If you want further background on Joshua, read **Ezra 3**

* Mark J. Boda, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 250.

Activity 2: Read & Discuss

Read Zechariah 3:1-5 and answer the following questions

1. From Zechariah 3:1, what do you notice about where Satan is standing and what he is doing?
2. From Zechariah 3:2, how does the LORD respond to the actions of Satan?
3. What do Joshua's filthy garments symbolize (Zechariah 3:3)? What is the significance of him receiving clean clothes (Zechariah 3:5)?

Activity 3: Read & Discuss

Read Zechariah 3:6-10 and answer the following questions

4. In Zechariah 3:8, God refers to “my servant, the Branch”. Who does this represent and why is this important?
5. In Zechariah 3:9-10, there are two references to a particular “day”. What will God accomplish on this “day”, and why is this important for us?

🔍 Exegetical Insight: What is the “stone with seven eyes”?

- Scholars do not agree what the “stone with seven eyes” refers to. There are some possibilities, including:
 - the letters engraved on the golden plate attached to the high priest’s turban (Ex. 28:36–38)
 - the stones on the high priest’s breastplate/ephod complex (Ex. 28:16–28)*
- In all these possibilities, the stone symbolizes how the high priest represents and bears the guilt of God’s people.



Ceramic replica of the
High Priest's breastplate
Source: [wikimedia.org](https://www.wikimedia.org/)

* Mark J. Boda, , The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 258.



Reflect, Share and Pray for one another

1. **Condemnation:** Are there areas of your life where you are weighed down by guilt and regret and feel defeated by sin (v.1)? Confess these to one another, and to God.
2. **Cleansing:** Pray for one another that our hearts may be purified and set free from the filthy garments of sin. (v.4)

Do not rush through this time of prayer. Give yourselves and one another the space that you need to bring your lives before God.



Next Steps (for personal reflection and action)

Might GOD be leading you to take the following steps in obedience to Him:

1. **Conviction:** Is God calling you to obey and serve Him, just as He called and empowered Joshua the high priest (v.7)?
2. **Compassion:** Are there non-Christian family members, friends, and colleagues that you know who need the LORD to cleanse and heal and save them? Pray for them by name and make concrete plans to reach out to them.



Additional Resources for Further Study

- Gregory, Bryan R. *Longing for God in an age of discouragement: the Gospel according to Zechariah*. P & R Publ., 2010.
- Anthony R. Petterson, ed. David W. Baker and Gordon J. Wenham, vol. 25, *Apollos Old Testament Commentary* (Nottingham, England; Downers Grove, IL: Apollos; InterVarsity Press, 2015)
- Andrew E. Hill, ed. David G. Firth, vol. 28, *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries* (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2012)
- Mark J. Boda, *The NIV Application Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004)