

VISION #4 – THE CHIEF END OF MAN – PART 2

--ZECHARIAH 3:6-7--

INTRODUCTION:

During the millennial kingdom, God will once again use the priests of Israel to lead the world in worship under the leadership of the great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. This helps explain the importance of the command from the Angel of Yahweh to Joshua the high priest, directing him to fulfill his responsibility to lead God's people in worship. This command not only teaches about worship generally but also points to the promise that Israel will not be cut off from serving the Lord in His future kingdom. Though the Levites deserved to be cast off for their unfaithfulness, God will cleanse them, as represented by Joshua in this vision, and invite them to serve in His presence. And as improbable as it seems in our world today, a time is coming when all the nations will join Israel in worshiping Yahweh, after all this is the chief end of man.

I. WORSHIP – THE RESPONSIBILITY (Zechariah 3:6-7a)

- a. Having cleansed the High Priest and clothed him in clean robes of Christ's righteousness making him fit for service, the angel of Yahweh now _____ Joshua.
- b. Joshua's responsibility first as given to him by Yahweh of hosts was to "_____ *in My ways.*" (Zechariah 3:7a, NASB95) (Genesis 5:24; Ephesians 2:1-2; 4:1, 17; 5:1-2, 8, 15)
- c. This exhortation to Joshua in these verses was not just for him but for all who _____.
- d. Not only was Joshua to walk in the ways of the LORD of hosts but was also commanded by Him to "_____ *My service.*" (Zechariah 3:7a, NASB95)
- e. These commands to Joshua were a symbol of a glorious _____.
- f. God's work of salvation enables every believer to respond in obedience and good _____.

II. WORSHIP – THE REWARD (Zechariah 3:7b)

- a. For the most part, priests had two main _____ serving in the temple in Jerusalem.
- b. In that future kingdom, the priesthood will fulfill its role in explaining God's _____ to man. (Isaiah 2:2-4; Ezekiel 44:24))
- c. Not only would they govern God's house, but Joshua was told he would also have _____ of God's courts. (Isaiah 1:12-13; Ezekiel 8:16; 9:7)
- d. But the courts that are being described here in Zechariah's vision are the courts of the _____ temple.
- e. This will be the beautiful ending to the story of God's _____ with the tribe of Levi.
- f. This is God's testimony of truth that He will fulfill every _____ He gave to His priests.

III. WORSHIP – THE RELATIONSHIP (Zechariah 3:7c)

- a. Throughout Israel's history, the priests not only experienced the privilege of serving God, but they also enjoyed the _____ of standing in special relationship to Him.
- b. For Joshua, who at this time represented the priesthood, God promised that one day he would be granted the blessing of "*free _____ among these who are standing here.*" (Zechariah 3:7c, NASB95)

CONCLUSION:

Even as distinctive as Joshua and the priests are, they are not the only ones who will enjoy such close access to the Lord. As Scripture reveals, God already indwells every believer. Though the priests may experience this in some unique way during the millennial kingdom, all believers already enjoy intimate fellowship with God because He lives within us. The object of worship—God Himself—is the highest reward of worship. Though His presence is a present reward, in the glory to come such fellowship will involve intensified communion with Him. What a glorious day that will be when the world gathers with the priests in Jerusalem to worship Yahweh with pure hearts and unbridled affection. Then even more than now man's chief end will be to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!