

DEVICES OF SATAN: Accusation Text: Zechariah 3:1-10

Introduction:

Bill Turner

1. Examining the Devices of Satan: he is a Liar, Destroyer, Tempter, & Accuser¹

PERSON	EVE	JOB	DAVID	JOSHUA
Satan's Device >	Deception	Destruction	Temptation	Accusation
Satan's Target >	the Mind	the Body	The Heart/Will	Conscience
Satan's Tactic >	Lies	Suffering	Selfish Pride	Accusation
Satan's Intent >	to be Ignorant of God's Will	to be Impatient with God's Will	to be Independent of God's Will	Indictment by God's Will
Your Defense >	FAITH in God's Word	FAITH in God's Goodness	FAITH in God's Plan / Protection	FAITH in God's Grace

2. **Nowhere but the Bible Can You See a Glimpse behind the Veil into spiritual realm**
 - a. Where we can see Spiritual Beings Patrolling the Earth (**Zechariah 1:7–11**)
 - b. Where we can see the High Priest goes to God on behalf of the people... (**Zechariah 3:1-2**)
3. **Satan tempts us to sin whispering, “you can get away with this.”**
but Then After We Sin—He Shouts, “You’ll Never Get Away With This!”
Only thing worse than having Satan as an adversary is having him as a friend

I. THE DEVICE: Accusation

A. THE TARGET: THE CONSCIENCE (**Zechariah 3:1-3**)

1. **Joshua the High Priest stands before the Lord...**
 - a) Joshua wasn't in God's presence just as a spectator but as a ministering priest.
2. **The High Priest is Human like everyone else—He is Not Sinless**
 - a) So God gave instructions for the HP to offer sacrifice for his own sins first,
 - b) then to offer sacrifice for the sins of the people.
3. **As High Priest, Joshua also represents the entire priesthood...**
 - a) But the priesthood was guilty of sin as well!
 - b) They were responsible for the ignorance of God's people (Hosea 4:6)
 - c) They Fed on the Sins of God's people (Hosea 4:8-9)
 - d) They Had Taught for Hire, rather than from the Heart (Mic. 3:11)
4. **As High Priest, Joshua also represents the whole nation!**
 - a) And the Sins of the People Were just as bad!
 - b) They Kept the best sacrifices for themselves rather than for God
 - c) They Complained against God... (Malachi 2:17)
 - d) They Divorced their Wives to take Pagan Wives (Malachi 2:11–16)

¹ Chart: Warren W. Wiersbe, The Strategy of Satan, p.85, 1979; adapted

5. And Where is Satan? —Standing at his right hand to Oppose Him...

- a) Satan hates it when we go before the Lord
- b) Satan hates it when we worship God
- c) Satan hates it when we go to God and seek forgiveness for our sins!

B. THE TACTIC: ACCUSATION

- 1. Satan is called the accuser (Rev 12:10) —Accusing God’s people of Sin**
 - a) And What is Devastating is that His Accusations are usually True!
 - b) We ARE Guilty of Sin!
 - c) Our Own Conscience Knows This... whether we admit it or not...
- 2. Remember God said to Satan... ‘have you considered my servant Job?’**
 - a) “that *there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?*”
- 3. But Now Satan is turning the tables... standing at the right hand of Joshua**
 - a) “Have You Considered your servants in Israel?”
 - b) “The Righteous!” HA! they’re hypocrites, they’re selfish...
 - c) They Don’t Love God—They Love Themselves... look at them! Filthy, covered in sin

C. THE INTENT: INDICTMENT BY GOD’S WILL

- 1. Satan is a liar — he uses lies to deceive...**
 - a) but when he accuses us of sin, it’s Devastatingly True...
 - b) Joshua is Standing Before the Lord with Filthy Garments Stained by Sin
 - c) **Joshua is Silent—what can he say? DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM? I’M THE HP!**
 - d) NO! —He Stands Convicted
- 2. Think About How Insidious Satan is...**
 - a) **First Before We Sin**—He Tempts Us Whispering, “You Can Get Away With This!”
 - b) **Then After We Sin**—He Shouts, “You’ll Never Get Away With This!”
- 3. First satan wants you to sin against God...**
 - a) then he wants you **indicted** by the Word of God
 - b) And Then to **stay Indicted, under condemnation** of guilt and shame
 - c) The Last thing he wants is for you to seek forgiveness of your sins

Only thing worse than having Satan as an adversary is having him as a friend

II. THE DEFENSE: Faith in God’s Grace

A. WHILE SATAN IS ACCUSING—GOD IS INTERCEDING!

- 1. Satan accuses because Joshua’s Priestly Garments Are Filthy (v.1-3)**
 - a) All Our Righteousness is Like Filthy Rags! (Isaiah 64:6) **Isaiah writes**
- 2. But While Satan is Accusing—>God is Interceding!**
 - (1) **The Lord Rebuked Satan! — Then Defended Joshua!**

(2) 'Is this not a brand plucked from the fire'

> A brand is a burnt, or smoldering piece of wood. It isn't worth much at all and will be consumed completely if it isn't plucked from the fire.

3. Then God Ordered the Sin Stained Garment to Be Removed

And Ordered a New Clean Robe be Put on Joshua (v.3-5)

God Can Take Burned out, Defeated, Damaged People and Make Them New Again!

—Useful for His Kingdom!

- a) Snatching Us From the Fire and Saving Us from Our Sins!
- b) He Removes the Sin Stained Robe—And Provided a New Robe of Righteousness!
- c) Just As Isaiah Describes! **(Isaiah 61:10)**

B. GOD PROVIDES A NEW ROBE—AND A NEW RESPONSIBILITY (v.6-7)

1. "If you will walk in My ways, And if you will keep My command..."

- a) then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here. (v.7 ESV)
- b) God Sets Us Free to Serve a High Calling...
- c) He told Pharaoh, Let My People Go That They May Serve Me

2. And By Serving God We Have Access To the Heavenly Places in Christ

(Ephesians 1:3; 2:6)

3. We Are Set Free to Serve—Just like the Prodigal Son...

- a) He had made a tragic mistake—wanting to be independent of his father and live it up in the world...
- b) But When He Came to His Senses—He Decides to Return to the Father...

²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. ²³ And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

4. But the Other Brother was in the Field working... he became Angry...

- a) After All the Work I've Done for You—You never had a feast for me and my friends...
- b) but your other son wastes all your inheritance with wine and women...
and you accept him back?

5. The Brother Was Relying on His OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS...

- a) but Prodigal Son Knew He Had No Righteousness Worthy to even be called a son
- b) All He Could Do Was ask for the gift of Grace and Serve his Father in Thankfulness

6. No One Can Stand Before God and Brag How Good They Are

- a) Even if You Are Good, You've Only Done What You Were Expected to Do All Along!
That Doesn't Give You the Righteousness to Stand Before God

C. GOD PROVIDES THIS CLEAN RICH ROBE THROUGH JESUS (v.8-10)

1. We Usually Think of Grace as Only Removing Our Sins of our past...

But It Also Clothes Us in His Righteousness

- a) Grace not only forgives our past—
- b) it sanctifies and justifies us to stand before God! **(1 Corinthians 6:9–11)**

2. We Are Washed, Sanctified, Justified—But How? (Galatians 3:26-27)

- a) Saul was told, “why do you wait, Arise and be baptized, Washing Away Your Sins” **(Acts 22:16)**

- b) For Those born again in baptism, You Are Washed of Your Sins
- c) AND You Are Clothed with Christ—in the Robe of His Righteousness!

3. Now You Can Approach the Throne of God, not as a criminal before a judge, but as a child before their Father!

- a) And if we sin, we have access to this grace... **(1 John 1:7-9)**
- b) Which is so much better than living in Denial! **(1:10)**

4. We Have to Be Honest With Our Failures and to Ask for Forgiveness

- a) The Prodigal Son was honest with his Sin—but his brother was not

5. We No Longer Have To Live under Condemnation!

- a) There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! **(Romans 8:1)**
- b) You can have your conscience cleansed and set free! **(Hebrews 9:14)**

Because of what Jesus did for you at the cross!

- c) We need to keep the Faith that we have access to grace

CONCLUSION:

- 1. While Satan is Accusing us—God is Interceding for us!**
- 2. He Provides a New Robe Made White by the Blood of the Lamb
(Revelation 12:10–11)**
- 3. And a New Priestly Responsibility—to Serve God (Rev. 7:13–15)**

**God Can Take Burned out, Defeated, Damaged People and Make Them New Again!
—Useful for His Kingdom!**

IF You Remove the Filthy Rags your own self-righteousness...

For a Robe of Righteousness purchased by the blood of Jesus at cross!