

Good morning! One of our kids' dearest longtime friends is a young man named Danny Kavanek. Immediately following high school graduation, Danny entered the Navy where he served as a submariner. After he got out of the Navy, he joined the Army Reserve and is currently in college in Texas, where he is studying to become an art teacher. He's a very good artist, a great storyteller, with a great sense of humor. When he came home from being a submariner and we were making much of him, he said, laughingly, "Well, I am kind of a big deal." Are you a big deal? Most of us, whether in true or false humility, would say no...but is that the truth? This morning, let's look together at an unfamiliar passage of scripture that speaks to this:

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebukes you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?" Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel. He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." Again he said to him, "See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes." Then I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments, while the angel of the Lord was standing by.

Zechariah 3:1–5

The Joshua in this passage is not Moses' sidekick Joshua, but Joshua the High Priest who worked with Zerubbabel and Haggai in the rebuilding of the temple around 515 B.C. In prophesying to Joshua, Zechariah makes some very important points. He reminds Joshua that he has been "plucked from the fire." In other words, God chose Joshua for a purpose. God has a purpose for each of us—a destiny we are to fulfill. Second, we see that God is watching over us. Verse 5 says that the Angel of the Lord stood by. Most Old Testament scholars agree that this is a reference to Jesus, what we call a "Christophany". Jesus has His eye on us, watching over the destiny he has for our lives. Third, Jesus is not the only one watching us---Satan also has his eye on us.

Whenever we fail or fall, Satan is right there to accuse us, as we see clearly in verse 1: "Satan [was] standing at his right hand to accuse him." The Amplified Version says: "to be his adversary and to accuse him." Fourth, note that Joshua was standing in filthy clothes, symbolizing the sin, which so often trips us up as we walk through life. As James 3:2 so accurately says, "For we all stumble in many things." All of us stumble and fail. Finally, Jesus has grace for us and renews us in our calling. The clean robes and turban placed upon Joshua in verses 4 and 5 remind us of the eternal truth of 1 John 1:9: "He [Jesus Christ] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Even though we all stumble and fail, Jesus picks us up and cleans us up, restoring us to our full stature in Him. God has a special plan and a purpose for every one of us and it started in eternity. Romans 8 tells us so clearly that before you were even conceived, God (1) foreknew you, (2) chose you, and (3) predestined you for His purposes. This morning let me encourage you that you are not an accident looking for a place to happen. Jesus is watching over you to bring you safely into His purposes...hey, you're a pretty Big Deal!