

Zechariah 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

Analysis

And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head—Remarkably, Zechariah intercedes, requesting the crowning piece of priestly vestments. The tsānīph tākōr (צִנִּיף טָהוֹר, 'clean/pure turban') bore the golden plate inscribed 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' (Exodus 28:36-38). The prophet's participation in the vision suggests the intercessory role of God's people in priestly restoration.

So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by—Heaven grants the prophet's request. The complete priestly investiture finishes: robes first (v. 4), now the turban bearing the sacred diadem. The Angel's standing 'ōmēd (עָמַד) 'beside' or 'over' ('al, עַל) suggests supervisory authority—He oversees the re-investiture, guaranteeing its validity. The scene previews believers' clothing in white robes (Revelation 3:5, 18; 7:9) and Christ the great High Priest whose priesthood supersedes Aaron's order (Hebrews 7:26-28). The 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' inscription declares that justified sinners are set apart for sacred service, their unholiness exchanged for Christ's perfect consecration.

Historical Context

The high priest's turban distinguished him from ordinary priests who wore caps (Exodus 28:40; 29:9). The golden plate's inscription declared that the priest bore Israel's guilt so their worship could be accepted (Exodus 28:38). Joshua's re-

turbaning signals the priesthood's full rehabilitation and God's acceptance of post-exilic worship despite the modest circumstances.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Zechariah's successful intercession teach about prayer's role in God's redemptive work?
2. How does the 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' inscription on our foreheads (Revelation 22:4) relate to this vision?
3. In what ways does Christ's high priesthood perfect what Joshua's priesthood foreshadowed?

Interlinear Text

וָאֵמַר ר	וְשִׁימוּ	הַצֵּן יָף	הָטָה וֹר	עַל	רֹאשׁוֹ	וְשִׁימוּ
And I said	Let them set	mitre	a fair	H5921	upon his head	Let them set
H559	H7760	H6797	H2889		H7218	H7760
יָף	הָטָה וֹר	עַל	רֹאשׁוֹ	וּלְבָשׁ הוּ	בְגָדִים	
mitre	a fair	H5921	upon his head	and clothed	him with garments	
H6797	H2889		H7218	H3847	H899	
וּמַלְאֲךָ	יְהוָה	עָמַד:				
And the angel	of the LORD	stood by				
H4397	H3068	H5975				

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 6:11 (Parallel theme): Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest;

Exodus 29:6 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt put the mitre upon his head, and put the holy crown upon the mitre.

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