

# Zechariah 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

## Analysis

**For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes**—Mysterious symbolism debated by scholars. The eben (אָבֵן, 'stone') laid before the high priest may be:

1. a foundation stone for the temple (connecting to 4:7-10)
2. the high priest's breastplate stone; or
3. most likely, a messianic symbol.

The 'seven eyes' (shib'āh 'ēynayim, שְׁבָעָה עֵינָיִם represent complete divine knowledge and providential oversight (Revelation 5:6 identifies them as 'the seven Spirits of God'). The stone simultaneously represents Christ (the foundation stone, Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6) and God's omniscient watch over His redemptive purposes.

**Behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day**—Mephattēach pittūchāh (מְפַתֵּח פִּתְחָה, 'I will engrave its engraving') depicts God carving an inscription on the stone—perhaps like the 'HOLINESS TO THE LORD' plate (Exodus 28:36) or the law written on stone tablets, but here accomplished by God Himself. The promise **I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day** points to decisive atonement. Beyōm echād (בַּיּוֹם אֶחָד, 'in one day') prophesies Christ's crucifixion—

the day when 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself' (2 Corinthians 5:19). On one Friday afternoon, the guilt of 'that land' (Israel) and the world was borne by the stone the builders rejected (Psalm 118:22; Acts 4:11).

## Historical Context

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The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) occurred yearly (Leviticus 16), but this prophecy promises permanent, once-for-all atonement 'in one day.' Hebrews 9:12, 26 declares that Christ 'by his own blood entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption.' The 'one day' of Zechariah 3:9 is the 'one sacrifice for sins forever' of Hebrews 10:12.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the 'stone with seven eyes' combine Christ's role as foundation with God's omniscient governance?
2. Why is the 'one day' removal of iniquity so significant compared to annual sacrifices?
3. What does God 'engraving the stone' Himself (not human engraving) reveal about salvation's source?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִשְׁעָנָה	לִפְנֵי	בְּתִתְתִּי	אֲשֶׁר	רָאָה	אֲשֶׁר	רָאָה	בְּתִתְתִּי	בְּתִתְתִּי	לִפְנֵי	וְהִשְׁעָנָה	
H3588	H2009	For behold the stone	H68	H834	that I have laid	H5414	before	H6440	Joshua	H3091	
עַל	אֲבִידָה	שְׁבַע	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	עַיִן	עַיִן	עַיִן	יְהִי	עַל	עַל	וְהִשְׁעָנָה	
H5921	For behold the stone	in one	shall be seven	eyes	H2005	H5869	H3068	H6635	the LORD	of hosts	
בְּהִנְדִּיכְתִּי	מְפִתְחָה	פְּתַח	נָאָמָת	יְהִי	אָבָא	וְתִתְהַלֵּךְ	בְּהִנְדִּיכְתִּי	מְפִתְחָה	בְּהִנְדִּיכְתִּי	בְּהִנְדִּיכְתִּי	
behold I will engrave	the graving	thereof saith	the LORD	the LORD	the LORD	of hosts	behold I will engrave	the graving	thereof saith	the LORD	
H6605	H6603	H5002	H3068	H6635			H6605	H6603	H5002	H3068	
וְיִמְשַׁתֵּחַ	אֶת	עַזְלֵה	בְּאָרֶץ	בְּהַיָּה	בְּיַמִּים	בְּיַמִּים	וְיִמְשַׁתֵּחַ	אֶת	וְיִמְשַׁתֵּחַ	וְיִמְשַׁתֵּחַ	
and I will remove	H853	H5771	H776	H1931	H3117	H259	and I will remove	H853	H5771	H776	H1931

## Additional Cross-References

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**Zechariah 4:10** (References Lord): For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

**Jeremiah 50:20** (Sin): In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

**Isaiah 28:16** (References Lord): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

**Revelation 5:6** (Parallel theme): And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

**Psalms 118:22** (Parallel theme): The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

**Jeremiah 31:34** (Sin): And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

**Romans 9:33** (Parallel theme): As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

**Hebrews 7:27** (Sin): Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

**2 Corinthians 1:22** (Parallel theme): Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

**2 Timothy 2:19** (Sin): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.