

— SERMON SERIES —

Rising Again

Finding Strength After Failure

God's grace gives
a second chance.



God Gives Another Chance (September 27, 2026), Shalom Ministries International Zoom Worship

Bemba Worship Song

- Twasumbule Ishina Lyenu
(We Exalt your Name)
Twale To Bukata Kuli Imwe.
(We Bring to you Glory)

Yahweh ee eee
Yahweh ee eee.

- Twasumbula Ishina Lyenu
(We Exalt your Name)
Twasumbula Pamo Nabangeli
(We Exalt it together with the
Angels)

Yahweh ee eee
Yahweh ee eee.

Led by Paul Musembi, the Worship Leader

Intercessory Prayer



Led by Marc Musimbi, Prayer Leader

The God of Second Chance (Zachariah 3:1-10)

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?" Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you..."

The angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua: "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.'"

"Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day. In that day each of you will invite your neighbor to sit under your vine and fig tree,' declares the LORD Almighty" (Zachariah 3:1-10).

Zachariah 3: Historical Background (520-518 BC)

- The end of captivity
 - Seventy years after the Babylonian Empire destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple (586 BC), Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered Babylon and permitted displaced Jewish exiles to return to their homeland (538 BC).
 - Under the leadership of Zerubbabel (the governor) and Joshua (the High Priest), 50,000 exiles made the journey back to Judea with high hopes of restoring their worship, city, and identity.
- The delayed project and spiritual crisis
 - Though they laid the Temple foundation shortly after returning (c. 536 BC), fierce local opposition, political conspiracy, and economic hardship brought construction to a complete halt for roughly 16 years (Ezra 4, Haggai 1).
 - During this interlude, the returned community suffered from deep discouragement, economic poverty, and lingering shame over their past sins and present struggles.
 - As High Priest, Joshua stood as the representative of this weary nation—bearing the burden of a broken city, an unfinished Temple, and a profound crisis of national and spiritual identity before God.

God Sees Us When We Are at Our Worst

- God sees everything
 - he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.
 - Joshua is standing before God; beside him is Satan, the accuser. He is standing there in filthy clothes. We often want to hide our failures. God sees us at our worst, and He does not walk away.
 - Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel (Zachariah 1:3).
- Satan accuses, but God defends
 - (God to Satan) “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?” (Zachariah 3:2).
 - God doesn't deny Joshua's condition. Instead, God takes responsibility for Joshua's restoration.
 - You failed; You may have been through the fire. your sin is real, but God's grace is greater. Grace doesn't mean pretending that sin isn't real.

The Initiative Comes from God

- God removes what we cannot remove ourselves
 - The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” (Zachariah 3:4).
- God comes to us and cleanses us
 - Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow (Isaiah 1:18).
 - Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).
 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:19).
- Your past may explain you, but your past does not have to define you
 - Your failure may be part of your story. But it does not have to be the final chapter.
 - Never say, “I failed, therefore I am. Failure” But say, “I failed, but God’s grace is still at work.” I can get up and continue the journey.
 - My failure is not my identity. God can call me to begin again.
 - My hope is not my perfection but in God’s faithfulness.

God Restores Our Identity

- Joshua's clothing changes
 - Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by (Zachariah 3:5).
 - Filthy clothes is the human condition without grace. When the Accuser points out our worst failures, our hypocrisies, and our shortcomings, he isn't lying. We stand exposed before a holy God in spiritual rags.
 - God doesn't just clean up the old clothes; He strips away the shame completely and replaces them with clean festive robes and a clean turban. Christianity isn't simply about receiving forgiveness for the past. It is about receiving a new identity in Christ.
 - If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- The second chance
 - This is the heart of the Gospel. A second chance from God isn't probation; it is complete justification. He treats us not as guilty criminals, but as honored children.
 - But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet' (Luke 15:22).

Second Chance Comes with a Second Calling

- God restores him for a purpose
 - If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here. (Zachariah 3:7).
- The charge
 - Grace is a gift, but it comes with a call to obedience.
 - If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my requirements... (Zachariah 3:7).
- The purpose of the second chance
 - God gives us a fresh start to change how we live, not to return to our old habits. A second chance is an opportunity to serve, lead, and be a positive example to others.
- God gives him hope for the future
 - I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua...I will remove the sin of this land in a single day (Zachariah 3:8-10).
- Grace leads to calling
 - Forgiveness leads to responsibility. Restoration leads to mission.
 - Feed my sheep (John 21:17).

What God does with Your Failures

- God removes your shame: Joshua's filthy clothes are removed
 - God takes your shame -> gives you grace.
 - Your brokenness → gives you restoration.
 - Your failure → gives you a new beginning.
 - Your past → gives you a future.
 - God doesn't deny your past; He redeems you from your past.
- God restores your identity
 - Joshua receives clean garments.
 - Your failure is something you experienced; it is not necessarily who you are.
- God renews your calling
 - Joshua receives responsibility again.
 - God doesn't restore you simply to sit down; He restores you so you can serve again.
- Your failure is not the end of your story
 - God's grace is still writing; “I am not finished with you.”

Call to Action

- **Focus on Faithfulness over Perfection**
 - Remember that God values a heart ready to repent and receive grace. Failure is an event, not your identity.
- **Step Into God's Restoration**
 - Bring your regrets and discouragements into the light of God's grace this week. Trust that because He gives second chances, your best chapters are still ahead.

