

The High Priest

DAY 4—THE ROBE

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness. (ISAIAH 61:10)

SUGGESTED FORMAT FOR THE PRAYER TIME

Praise

- God, we praise You for who You are—You are righteous, pure, and strong.
- Thank You that You are willing to give us Christ's robe of righteousness.
- We praise You that "the work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever" (Isaiah 32:17).

Confession and Claiming Victory Over Sin

- Lord, please show us the sins we need to confess to You.
- Forgive us for times when we wore our own robes of righteousness instead of taking Christ's robe of righteousness.
- Forgive us for our self-sufficiency.

Supplication and Intercession

- Lord, please lead us to accept Christ's robe of righteousness.
- Help each of us to realize that "all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). Help us to see our own righteousness as You see it.
- Please teach us how to "flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace" (2 Timothy 2:22).
- Please teach us to "not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" in order that "the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled" in us (Romans 8:4).
- Please grow in us the fruit of righteousness.
- Please protect our young people from worldly temptations. Turn their eyes toward Jesus.
- Father, please teach us how to share the Bread of Life with others. When we are weak, give us Your strength. When we are fearful, give us Your courage.
- We pray for a renewed focus on studying Daniel, Revelation, and other prophecies. Please give our church members solid hope for the future and a clear understanding of the controversy between Christ and Satan.
- Lord, teach us to study Your Word for ourselves every day. Inspire more members to participate in "Believe His Prophets" by reading the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy together as a world church.
- Help each of us to value and seek out the inspired wisdom given to our church in the Spirit of Prophecy writings. May these counsels lead us more deeply into Your Word, the Bible.
- Lord, we pray for the seven (or more) people on our individual prayer lists. May the Holy Spirit change their hearts and minds.
- We also pray for the personal needs of those gathered here.

Thanksgiving

- Lord, thank You that all who desire Christ's righteousness may have it freely.
- Thank You for the life and death of Jesus, which give us access to Your righteousness.

SUGGESTED SONGS TO SING

"What a Wonderful Savior" (SDA Hymnal #335); "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (SDA Hymnal #334); "There Is a Fountain" (SDA Hymnal #336); "Jesus Saves" (SDA Hymnal #340); "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (SDA Hymnal #290); "Take the World, but Give Me Jesus" (SDA Hymnal #329); "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" (SDA Hymnal #343).

The Robe

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness. (ISAIAH 61:10)

The Robe is a symbol of Christ's righteousness that covers our nakedness when we accept it.

All that have put on the robe of Christ's righteousness will stand before Him as chosen and faithful and true. Satan has no power to pluck them out of the hand of Christ. Not one soul that in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy's power. His word is pledged: "Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me." Isaiah 27:5. The promise given to Joshua is made to all: "If thou wilt keep My charge, . . . I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by." Zechariah 3:7. Angels of God will walk on either side of them, even in this world, and they will stand at last among the angels that surround the throne of God. (*Counsels for the Church*, pp. 351, 352)

It is the righteousness of Christ that makes the penitent sinner acceptable to God and works his justification. However sinful has been his life, if he believes in Jesus as his personal Saviour, he stands before God in the spotless robes of Christ's imputed righteousness. (*Faith and Works*, p. 106)

And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith. (Philippians 3:9)

The sinner so recently dead in trespasses and sins is quickened by faith in Christ. He sees by faith that Jesus is his Saviour, and alive forevermore, able to save unto "the uttermost [all] that come unto God by Him." In the atonement made for him the believer sees such breadth and length and height and depth of efficiency—sees such completeness of salvation, purchased at such infinite cost, that his soul is filled with praise and thanksgiving. He sees as in a glass the glory of the Lord and is changed into the same image as by the Spirit of the Lord. He sees the robe of Christ's righteousness, woven in the loom of heaven, wrought by his obedience, and imputed to the repenting soul through faith in His name.

When the sinner has a view of the matchless charms of Jesus, sin no longer looks attractive to him; for he beholds the Chiefest among ten thousand, the One altogether lovely. He realizes by a personal experience the power of the gospel, whose vastness of design is equaled only by its preciousness of purpose. (*Faith and Works*, pp. 106, 107)

As the people of God afflict their souls before Him, pleading for purity of heart, the command is given, "Take away the filthy garments" from them, and the encouraging words are spoken, "Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment." The spotless robe of Christ's righteousness is placed upon the tried, tempted, yet faithful children of God. The despised remnant are clothed in glorious apparel, nevermore to be defiled by the corruptions of the world. Their names are retained in the Lamb's book of life, enrolled among the faithful of all ages. They have resisted the wiles of the deceiver; they have not been turned from their loyalty by the dragon's roar. Now they are eternally secure from the tempter's devices. Their sins are transferred to the originator of sin. (*Counsels for the Church*, p. 353)

A general faith is not enough. We must put on the robe of Christ's righteousness and wear it openly, bravely, decidedly, exhibiting Christ, and not expect too much of finite man, but keep looking unto Jesus, and become ravished with the perfections of His character. Then we shall individually make manifest the character of Jesus, and make it evident that we are invigorated by the truth; because it sanctifies the soul and brings into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (*Reflecting Christ*, p. 108)

The truly righteous, who sincerely love and fear God, wear the robe of Christ's righteousness in prosperity and adversity alike. Self-denial, self-sacrifice, benevolence, kindness, love, patience, fortitude, and Christian trust are the daily fruits borne by those who are truly connected with God. Their acts may not be published to the world, but they themselves are daily wrestling with evil, and gaining precious victories over temptation and wrong. (*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 31)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. (1 Peter 2:24, ESV)

Each one will have a close struggle to overcome sin in his own heart. This is at times a very painful and discouraging work; because, as we see the deformities in our character, we keep looking at them, when we should look to Jesus and put on the robe of His righteousness. Everyone who enters the pearly gates of the city of God will enter there as a conqueror, and his greatest conquest will have been the conquest of self. (*God's Amazing Grace*, p. 31)

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:3, KJV)