

The Journey Through Zechariah

Session 6 Chapter 5 Visions 6 & 7

I. Introduction:

- a. Let's make sure we view this chapter according to the overall message that is being given in conjunction with the entire book. We want to look through the lenses of God's zeal for His people and the land. The first five visions are indeed prophecies of **Hope, Glory, Mercy, and Grace**.
- b. The God of Israel has two methods in dealing with sin and removing it. I believe the one that He delights in the most is grace. But what about those who remain in their wickedness? Despite the display of God's grace, they will not choose God or they would be found trampling underfoot the grace that saved them as a license to sin.
- c. One of God's methods is that of judgment. Sin must be purged away, iniquity must be stamped out in the city of God; but when the sinner is so wedded to his sin that he is no longer separable from it, he becomes the object of God's curse, and must be "cleansed away" from the earth. These two visions in chapter 5 give us the reverse side of the truth that was taking place in the first four chapters.
- d. They show us that if there is grace and forgiveness with God, it is not in order for men and women to think lightly of sin, but that it will be judged! It also shows us before all the wonderful things happen in the first five visions. It is as if we step backwards and come to terms with a period of moral darkness and corruption. With many that are growing in the understanding of the days ahead I also believe that a great light will arise in the body of Christ. Light will increase, the lines will be drawn and a great witness will come forth, the bride of Christ will reflect His love and His Sovereignty.

II. Fast Review:

- a. The first three visions (Zech. 1-2) have a millennial promise of *prosperity* and *blessing* for Israel. The fourth and fifth visions (Zech. 3-4) speak of Israel's leadership being *cleansed* and *anointed*. Before the fullness of God's blessing can be released in and through Israel, both the people and the land of Israel must be cleansed from everything contrary to the Lord. The message of the sixth and seventh visions (Zech. 5) pertains to the *judgment* and *cleansing* of nation of Israel. Before the promises in the first five visions are fulfilled, there will be a period of moral darkness.
- b. We need to pay attention to **every phrase** in this chapter. As the day draws near we will receive more revelation. I believe greatly, along with others in the body of Christ, that we are headed down the right path. Revelation will increase as we set our hearts and wills to go deeper in God! Like a four lane highway, you are headed in the right direction, but you may need to change lanes every once in a while as more revelation comes. So let's GO DEEP IN THE WORD!

III. Zechariah Chapter 5:

1 Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll. 2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits." 3 Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief shall be expelled,' according to this side of the scroll; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,' according to that side of it." 4 "I will send out the curse," says the Lord of hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief And the house of the one who swears falsely by My name. It shall remain in the midst of his house and consume it, with its timber and stones." 5 Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, "Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth." 6 So I asked, "What is it?" And he said, "It is a basket that is going forth." He also said, "This is their resemblance throughout the earth: 7 Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket"; 8 then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth. 9 Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. 10 So I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?" 11 And he said to me, "To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base."

a. We have:

1. A flying scroll
2. It's length
3. A curse
4. A lead disc
5. A women
6. A basket
7. Two women with wings like a stork
8. We have a whole lot of activity between the visions and the interpretation.

b. Now just a little heads up before we break it down.

- i. The sixth vision deals with removing **individual sins** from the lives of Israelites (5:1-4).
- ii. The seventh vision deals with removing the **systems of sin** from Israel (5:5-11).
- iii. The fullness of the end-time systems of sin will move to Babylon (Shinar; 5:11; Rev. 17-18). The sixth vision describes the removal of individual sinners from Israel by judgment (5:3) This seventh vision involves the national cleansing of wickedness from Israel (3:9; 5:10-11).

- iv. A interesting prophesy from Malachi – **He will purify the sons of Levi...that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness ...I will come near you for judgment; I will be a swift witness against sorcerers, against adulterers, against perjurers, against those who exploit wage earners and widows and orphans, and against those who turn away an alien** (*Alien: A foreigner living in a community without relatives*)—**because they do not fear Me. (Mal. 3:3-5)** Malachi prophesied that the Lord would cleanse Israel in the end times, so that they would live righteously before Him. He will bring swift judgment on perjurers and thieves who exploit people (Mal. 3:1-5).

IV. Zechariah 5:1-2

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I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll. And he said to me, “What do you see?” So I answered, “I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits.” (Zech. 5:1-2)

- a. **The scroll represents a message or a pronouncement from God to man.** This scroll represents the release of the curse, or judgments, described in God’s word. The fact that it flies speaks of it traveling rapidly. The fullness of these judgments will be released in the end times to prepare Israel to receive Jesus as king. Flying over the whole land and moving swiftly signifying the swiftness of the judgments of God that will overtake the wicked.
- b. **Its length:** The scroll was twenty cubits long (30 feet) and ten cubits wide (15 feet).
- c. It is not an accident that it is the same size as the *holy place* in Moses’ tabernacle, where the lampstand of Zech. 4. Thus, the flying scroll is symbolic of judgment. Men are weighed, judged, according to God’s holiness, as represented by the holy place.
- d. We know the large scroll was unrolled, because its dimensions were seen and it had writing on both sides (5:3). The scroll was open and large so all could read it easily; therefore, no one could plead ignorance of its requirements.
- e. It was written on both sides, just like the Ten Commandments. **Moses...went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets. (Ex. 32:15-16)**

V. Zechariah 5:3-4

This would be the interpretation of the flying scroll from the angel. **Then he said...“This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: ‘Every thief shall be expelled,’ according to this side of the scroll; and, ‘every perjurer shall be expelled,’ according**

to that side of it. I will send out the curse," says the LORD of hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name. It shall remain in the midst of his house and consume it, with its timber and stones." (Zech. 5:3-4)

- a. The curse is toward all those who rebelled against God, when His grace is refused His judgments are necessary. He will drive out everything that hinders love. Only those who will repent will avoid His judgments. It will affect the entire earth.
- b. Zechariah specified only two sins—perjury and theft. He picked the middle command from each of the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. The two sins, one from each tablet of the Ten Commandments, represented all of Israel's sin before God and man.
- c. **Every perjurer shall be expelled:** Perjury sins against God by swearing falsely in His name; it breaks the third commandment, and is on the first tablet of the law, which summarizes loving God.
- d. **Every thief shall be expelled:** Stealing sins against one's neighbor; it breaks the eighth commandment, and is on the second tablet of the law, which summarizes loving man. It is also in the middle of each tablet 3 & 8.
- e. **Both sides of the scroll:** This scroll represents God's Word and what it says about His judgments (5:3). One side of the scroll said *every thief shall be expelled*, and on the other side it said *every perjurer shall be expelled*. The scroll was not rolled up, but flying fully open, so that both sides could be easily read.
 - i. I want to share something that I found very interesting regarding the thief. With some commentaries I found this translation of this verse. Which is speaking of the House of Prayer. (Temple) **The "theft" immediately meant is similar sacrilege to that complained of in Nehemiah 13:10-12 - I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field. So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their place. Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse.**
 - ii. They robbed God by neglecting to give Him His due in building His house, while they built their own houses, forsaking their obligations to Him; therefore, the "houses" they build shall be "consumed" with God's "curse."
I believe it is both!
- f. **The House:** Zechariah personified the curse by describing it as entering into the home of the one who refuses a relationship of obedience to the Lord. Judgment will

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come to his home, i.e., the very place he thinks he is safe and hidden from God's judgments.

- g. The judgment will continue there until it consumes every facet of his home. There is no solution or deliverance from this problem because God is the source of it. The idea of consuming the "stones and timber" of one's house is found in the Law of Moses which commanded that the house of a leper be completely torn down, dismantling every stone and all the panels of wood so that the leprosy in that house would not spread (Lev. 14:45). "Leprosy" is often used to denote sin. **And he shall break down the house, its stones, its timber... (Lev. 14:45)**
- h. **Good News:** Jesus removed the curse by becoming a curse for all who will give their life to Him. **Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. (Gal. 3:13)**

VI. Zechariah 5:5-11 Vision #7: The Women in the basket

- a. This vision deals with moving the end-time systems of sin to Babylon (5:5-11). This vision pictures the national cleansing of wickedness from the land of Israel (2:12; 3:9). Zechariah saw a wicked woman trapped inside a basket (5:6-8) and two other women with wings like a stork. They picked up the basket in their beaks and took it to Babylon (5:11).
- b. We will break these 7 verses down in 3 sections
 - i. **Section 1 Verse 8:**

Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, "Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth." So I asked, "What is it?" And he said, "It is a basket that is going forth." He also said, "This is their resemblance throughout the earth: Here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket." Then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth. (Zech. 5:8)

 1. *Wickedness and idolatry removed from the Holy Land to Babylon./*
 2. What the prophet saw was a basket or a ephah which it was called, which is used as a standard commercial way of measurement or a container.
 3. **This is their resemblance: I want you to get a good meaning of the basket, and the women;** The angel explained that the sin of the wicked woman in the basket resembled the kind of wickedness that would go forth in all the nations. The resemblance (appearance) of sin will look the same across the earth because all nations will be affected

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by the system of evil economics represented by the woman in the basket. The woman's evil will run through the nations, capturing people by her greed and deceit. **For your [Babylon's] merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. (Rev. 18:23)**

4. The prophet looks and sees a circular mass of lead, sitting on the basket and it was lifted and behold a woman appears sitting in the midst of the basket. The angel points to her and says this is wickedness. There seems to be an attempt to get out, or escape and the angel casts her down into the basket and threw the lead weight to cover the basket.

ii. Section 2: Verse 9

Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. (Zech. 5:9) Lift up between earth and heaven: (5:9c)

1. The two women carried the basket, flying with the wind of divine assistance. They were doing God's will by the wind of the Spirit, carrying the basket far away from the land of Israel.
2. **Wings of a stork:** Storks are strong birds, capable of carrying loads a long distance in flight.

iii. Section 3: Verses 10-11

I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?" And he said to me, "To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base." (Zech. 5:10-11)

1. **To build a house for it:** The two women were carrying the basket with the wicked woman to a place where a house would be built for it (5:11a). The *house* speaks of a system of wickedness based on demonic worship. The woman is a system of wickedness. She will land in *her own place*.
2. **The land of Shinar:** The land of Shinar is the ancient name for Babylon, where the tower of Babel was originally built (Gen. 10:10; 11:2; 14:1, 9). It is in present-day Iraq.
3. **When it is ready:** After a season of lawlessness she will seduce the kings of the earth and the merchants to their destruction by her seductive luxury. When God's plan in the nations develops, it will be time

to move harlot Babylon over to the city of Babylon (Rev. 18).

4. **Set there on its base:** The system of wickedness will have a base (Rev. 17:17). **They [the 10 kings] give their power and authority to the beast [Antichrist]...For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. (Rev. 17:12-17)**

Now, I know what I am about to share is going to take some of you by surprise. I also encourage you to search out the scripture. I believe you are here not to keep silent, but to be equipped for the days ahead, dwelling in the peace of God and being a voice of truth and revelation.

VII. BABYLON IN THE END TIMES (REV. 17-18)

- a. Revelation 17 is about the seductive power, cruel persecution, and inevitable destruction of this harlot system. The harlot (woman of wickedness) is a counterfeit of the Bride that the Holy Spirit is preparing for Jesus.
- b. **Harlot Babylon:** This system will be established in the rebuilt city of Babylon (50 miles south of Baghdad) in Iraq. The judgments which Jeremiah prophesied about Babylon's sudden, total, and final destruction have not yet happened (Jer. 50-51). It will be the most powerful economic center in the earth (Rev. 17-18). The harlot will have authority over the nations by seducing and controlling the world's most powerful leaders (kings and merchants) through global economic networks (Rev. 18:3, 9, 11, 15, 17, 19, 23) **All the nations have drunk of...her fornication, the kings of the earth... and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. (Rev. 18:3)**
- c. The harlot will be arrayed in purple and scarlet (royal status) and will be respected by the elite financial leaders of the earth, who will give their allegiance to her. She will have a cup full of abomination and filth. *Abomination* refers to idolatrous, demonic activity (OT). *Filthiness* refers to moral perversions.

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet [royalty], and adorned with gold...having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. (Rev. 17:4)