

Zechariah 5

Scriptures:

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Notes:

The first five visions were given to encourages the exiles who had returned from Babylon. They pointed to the hope of the coming Messiah, restoration of God's people, and the rebuilding of the temple of God. The last three are a stern warning that God will not tolerate sin in His people. Before blessings can be experienced, repentance must be accomplished. Before the Messiah can come, sin must be dealt with once and for all.

Deuteronomy 28 teaches us that blessings are a product of obedience to God and that curses are the byproduct of disobedience. The people of Judah are actively rebuilding the temple in obedience to God. These next two visions teach us the need to expel all sin, even as we obey God. The blessings God wants to pour out on the people of Judah through the rebuilt temple will be blocked by the presence of sin in their people and in their city/culture.

"One work of obedience does not offset the need for holiness in all aspects of living." (Kaiser, 1992) page 346

The temple is symbolic of God's holiness and the sacrifices performed at the temple remind the people God's attitude toward sin, evil, and wickedness.

God is very patient, but His patience is not eternal (2 Pet. 3:9).

We live when sin is tolerated, made light of, and even celebrated. Righteousness is condemned as hate and refusing to go along with other people's sins is referred to as bigotry.

God's warnings are a blessing. They are the boundaries between God's blessings and curses.

Title ideas:
The Glory of God's Patience!
The Glory of God's Holiness!
The Glory of God's Blessings and Curses!
The Glory of God's Warnings and Promises!

Zechariah 5:1-11 - The Glory of God's Warnings and Promises!

Scriptures:
Jeremiah 36:2 - Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day.

Jeremiah 36:3 - It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

¹ Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw

there a flying scroll.

H5774 - H4039 - roll, volume

Notes:
Sixth vision of eight.

The scroll is hovering in mid-air.

Scrolls are used in prophetic visions to communicate God's charges against sinful humanity (Jer. 36:2). This was usually with the hope that people would repent and turn from their wicked ways so that God could relent from the judgment they deserve (Jer. 36:3).

"It's message of judgment is not concealed from anyone." (Barker, 2008) page 764

Scriptures:

² And he said to me, "What do you see?"

Notes:
'cubit' = approximately 18 inches.
Scroll = 30 feet by 15 feet.

So I answered, "I see a flying scroll. Its length is

twenty cubits and its width ten cubits."

Scriptures:

Leviticus 19:11-12 - You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. 12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

James 2:10-11 - For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. 11 For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10 - when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, 10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Romans 2:16 - ...in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

³ Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes

423 -

out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief

H1589 -

shall be expelled,' according to this side of the

H5352 - to be purged (ousted)
v. — to be ousted, banished, or forced out of a location.

scroll; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,'

H7650 – to swear

H5352 -

according to that side of it."

Notes:

Why are only thieves and perjurers called out here? They may have been the tow most common sins/crimes being committed by the people.

How can anyone, even God's people, expect God's blessings while they live in sin against God.

'the curse' = a promise of judgment. God always warns people before He judges them.

Both of these have always been forbidden by God (Lev. 19:11-12).

Breaking one law is the same as breaking all of them (Jam. 2:10-11).

'thief' = sins against fellow man. 'perjurer' = sins against God. Just as the stone tablets contained sins against God and sins against man. While there are only two sins called out, they represent all sinners.

God will someday judge all sin and 'expel' those who practice sin from the world (2 Thess. 1:7b-10).

"Those who do not believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be judged according to it (Rom. 2:16).

Scriptures:

Isaiah 55:11 - So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;

It shall not return to Me void,

But it shall accomplish what I please,

And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Numbers 32:23 - But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.

4 "I will send out *the curse,*" says the LORD of

Notes:

When God speaks, His Word does what he says (*Isa. 55:11*).

'enter the house' - you cannot hide your sins from God (*Num. 32:23*).

'timber and stones' = total destruction.

This is both a warning and a promise. It is a warning to sinners that judgment is coming if they do not repent. It is a promise to the faithful that God will someday cleanse the world of all sin.

hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief and

the house of the one who swears falsely by My

H7650 -

H8267 - wrongly,
lie

name. It shall remain in the midst of his house

and consume it, with its timber and stones."

H3615 - destroy

Scriptures:

⁵ Then the angel who talked with me came out

Notes:
Seventh vision of eight.

The sixth vision symbolically depicted the removal of sinners from the world. The seventh vision depicts the removal of the principle of sin from the world.

and said to me, "Lift your eyes now, and see what

In Zechariah 2:12 Israel is called the Holy Land. It should not surprise us therefor that God desires wickedness to be removed from the land.

this *is* that goes forth."

H3318 -

Scriptures:

⁶ So I asked, “What is it?” And he said, “It is a

Notes:

‘basket’ – could symbolize godless commercialism.

‘their resemblance’ – might suggest that the people are like this basket – containing wickedness.

basket that is going forth.” He also said, “This is

H374 - ephah basket
n. — a basket that equaled the measurement of an ephah; made of unknown material.

their resemblance throughout the earth:

H5869 – Form, appearance

Scriptures:

⁷ here is a lead disc lifted up, and this is a woman

H5777 - H3603 - lid

Notes:

Who is this woman? What does she represent?

This is probably not the Great harlot in Revelation 17.

sitting inside the basket”;

Scriptures:

^A 8 then he said, “This ^{is} Wickedness!” And

H7564 – fault,
wrong

Notes:

“Wickedness stood for everything that was opposite of righteousness – whether in the ethical, civil, or religious realm.” (Kaiser, 1992) page 350

‘he thrust her down’ gives the sense that she was resisting being restrained.

^A he thrust ^{her} her down into the basket, and threw the

H7993 -

lead cover over its mouth.

Scriptures:

⁹ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there

Notes:

It is difficult to interpret the symbolism of the 'two women'. Some suggest that they are angelic beings sent by God on this mission. If that is true, it is the only place in Scripture where angels are seen as feminine.

were two women, coming with the wind in their

H802 -

H7307 -

wings; for they had wings like the wings of a

H3671 -

stork, and they lifted up the basket between

earth and heaven.

Scriptures:

10 So I said to the ^Aangel who talked with me,

Notes:

“Where are ²⁹they carrying the basket?”

Scriptures:

Genesis 11:1-2 - Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.
2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

2 Corinthians 7:1 - Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

11 And he said to me, "To build a house for it in

H1004 -

the land of Shinar; when it is ready, *the basket*

H3559 -

will be set there on its base."

H3240 -

H4369 -

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Notes:

What is the purpose of this? What does it mean?

'Shinar' = Babylon. Here the Lord is making a distinction between the land He has blessed and the land He has cursed.

The main point seems to be the removal of sin from the land of Israel. Wherever God's people dwell, righteousness should be the primary characteristic of its people.

Shinar – this area has a historical reputation of rebellion against God – the tower of Babel was here (Gen. 11:1-2). This was also the scene of their most recent captivity – Babylon. This is modern-day Iraq.

This is where wickedness was first worshipped, where Israel was punished for its wickedness, and where the God of wickedness, Satan will set up his capital in the end-times.

'house' could refer to a temple or a ziggurat.

God will deal with sin in His people and in His land. This also applies to Christians and the church. Knowing this we ought to strive for holiness, rather than making God do it (2 Cor. 7:1).