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Zechariah / Zechariah 5:5-11

Last time in our study of Zechariah we studied the Eighth Vision the vision of the Flying Scroll.

Zechariah Chapter 5 is divided into two parts. The Eighth vision; the vision of the flying Scroll; Chapter 5 verses 1 to 4. And the ninth vision; the Vision of the woman in the Ephah

Last time, we saw that the size of the scroll is the exact same size as the Holy Place; or the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle. It is also the size of the Porch of Solomon in the Temple. The High Priest was the only one allowed into the Holy of Holies to offer sacrifices on behalf of the nation. He could enter on the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur; to offer a sacrifice for the sins of the people. The High Priest had to have his heart right with the LORD before he offered the sacrifice to atone for sins of the people. If the High Priest approached the LORD on his own merits; he would be struck dead. GOD was showing that HE takes the presence of sin very seriously.

We also saw, that this flying scroll represents the Ten Commandments. The scroll being written on both sides points to the Two Tablets that the Ten Commandments were written on.

The first tablet dealt with man's relationship to GOD. The second tablet dealt with man's relationship with other men. We saw that GOD condemns and curses sin. The curse from GOD for sin will come to every house or person on the Earth. GOD is going to remove sin from the Earth. When a person comes to receive the gift of Eternal life through JESUS's death on the Cross they are immediately delivered from the penalty of sin. As the Holy Spirit performs the work of sanctification by conforming us into the image of JESUS; we are being delivered from the power of sin. There is a yet future deliverance from the presence of sin. This will take place after the millennial reign of JESUS Christ. When the New Heavens and New Earth are

Created.

Tonight we will be studying the Ninth Vision given to Zechariah in one night; The Vision of the Woman in the Ephah. As we continue through Zechariah Chapter 5; we see that GOD will remove sin.

Lets read Zechariah Chapter 5.

Zechariah 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.""

Zechariah 5:5

"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.""

Once again we see this is a vision, as the angel is talking with Zechariah. He tells him to lift up his eyes and look.

Zechariah 5:6–8

"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."

Zechariah does not understand what he is seeing, so he asks the angel to explain.

(explain)

The basket is the Hebrew Ephah. The lead disc in Hebrew is talent. The talent would be the largest unit of measure the Jewish people would use. A typical ephah would be about the size of bushel basket. The talent would weigh approximately 70 to 75 lbs.

Both the ephah and the talent would be used when trading goods as a unit of measurement. This would be a reference to a commercial system.

Metals in scripture have different symbolism. For example gold would be symbolic of heaven and also kings. Silver of redemption. Lead would be used in refining silver or gold.

Jeremiah 6:29

"29 The bellows blow fiercely, The lead is consumed by the fire; The smelter refines in vain, For the wicked are not drawn off."

The angel then tells Zechariah that what he is seeing is wickedness. The word wickedness means: guilt; wickedness especially morally.

Zechariah 5:9 "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.”

Angels in scripture are usually sexless.

Matthew 22:30 “30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.”

But when they do appear; they appear in the form of a male. (Gabriel; Michael; the Angels at the tomb after JESUS’s resurrection.)

Storks, Levitically are unclean birds.

Leviticus 11:13,19

“13 ‘And these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, the vulture, the buzzard,”

“19 the stork, the heron after its kind, the hoopoe, and the bat.”

Whatever these creatures are, the fact that they described as an unclean bird, levitically; and the angel calling the woman in the ephah wickedness—means that this is evil.

Zechariah 5:10–11

“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.””

Here we are given a geographical location. Where is the land of Shinar?

Turn to Genesis Chapter 10.

Genesis 10:7–10

“7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.”

“8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord.”

10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar."

Also In Daniel Chapter 1 we read.

Daniel 1:1–2

"1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god."

Shinar means the land between the rivers. These would be the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers. This would put Shinar in modern day Iraq.

Something I want to look at here before we move on.

In Genesis Chapter 10 verse 7 we see the sons of Cush listed. In Chapter verse 8 we see that Cush begot Nimrod. In the Hebrew the word for sons is Ben; representing a family. In verse 8 the word for begot; means in distress in the form a simile; or wickedness. Nimrod is not listed in the family sense as a son; but differently to describe his wickedness.

Nimrod also had a wife, named Semiramis. While she is not mentioned by name in the Bible; she does have a title that we will discuss later. Semiramis had a son named Tammuz. We will not detour now but will discuss later.

Remember Zechariah is a Post-Exilic book. Meaning it was written when the Children of Israel returned from the Exile in Babylon.

In Genesis we see the start of two cities. We see foundations of what will become Jerusalem; which is the only city that GOD has put HIS name on.

2 Chronicles 33:7 "7 He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;"

We also see the start of another city. Babel or Babylon, which literally means: Confusion by mixing.

These two cities also have two distinct futures. One will be recreated and

we will dwell there with JESUS; the New Jerusalem. The other; Babylon, carries on her forehead, a name written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH"

Mother would refer to source.

Genesis 3:20

"20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living."

(elaborate on meaning of Eve.)

Genesis 11:1–9

"1 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.

3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built."

"6 And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth."

Here in Genesis Chapter 11 we see the start of the city of Babel/ Babylon.

Genesis Chapter puts the timing of the Tower of Babel two generations after the flood. Nimrod would have been Noah's Great Grandson. Noah would most likely still be alive. Shem is still alive.

We know the people at this time were intelligent.

Genesis Chapter 11 Verse 3 tells us:

"Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar."

(Explain what they commanded to do after the flood, and the type of structure that was built, a ziggurat.) (Rebellion)

In another words, they could have been trying to build a literal tower to reach heaven; or worship the host of heaven.

When the Bible describes Jerusalem or Babylon. It is referring to the literal city of Jerusalem or Babylon.

The Encyclopedia Britannica describes Babylon as:

"Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon was the largest city in the world. The Euphrates, flowed through it, the older part of the city being on the east bank. Along the Euphrates, particularly in the neighborhood of Esagila, were quays (or docks) for trading vessels, and textual evidence that Babylon was an entrepôt (or port) for trade, with south Babylonia points to the existence of warehouses. The river was spanned by a bridge, on brick piles with stone capping, to the western half of the city. The streets were laid out on a grid, with the main axis parallel to the river. From Esagila northward passed the paved Processional Way, its walls decorated with enameled lions.

East of the Processional Way lay an area that since the time of Hammurabi had contained private dwellings built around central courtyards. A massive double wall, protected by a fosse (ditch), enclosed the city on both sides of the Euphrates. Between the inner and outer defenses was irrigated land with a network of canals."

Hammurabi, a king who lived about 1200-1300 years before Nebuchadnezzar; first encircled the city with walls. Nebuchadnezzar II further fortified the city with three rings of walls that were 40 feet tall.

The Greek historian Herodotus wrote that the walls of Babylon were so thick that chariot races, 6 wide; were held on top of them. The city inside the walls occupied an area of 200 square miles, roughly the size of Chicago today.

Babylon was a major commercial center in the ancient world.

Babylon was also full of idolatry. They a whole host of false gods. There were idols everywhere. In fact when the children of Israel were taken captive to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar took the finest young men for his court. Part of the process of breaking the young men down was to remove their Hebrew names and rename after the Babylonian deities.

Turn to Daniel 1:7

"7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego."

Daniel means: "God is my Judge." and was changed to Belteshazzar which means "Prince of Bel."

Hananiah means: "God has favored." and was changed to Shadrach which means: "Servant of Sin"

Mishael means: "Who is like the LORD." and was changed to Meshach which means: "Who is like Aku."

Azariah means: "Yahweh has helped." and was changed to: Abed-Nego which means: "Servant of Nebo."

This name change was to get them thinking like a Babylonian. But while their names were changed; their hearts were not.

(talk to the parents about their children and public schools.)

(responsibility of fathers)

(my role as Pastor overseeing the Children's ministry.)

Nebuchadnezzar consulted various forms of occultic magicians and soothsayers etc. to interpret his dreams before what I believe was his conversion in Daniel Chapter 4.

While GOD use Babylon to bring judgement upon the nation of Israel; HE

is ultimately going to judge Babylon.

Turn to Isaiah Chapter 21.

(talk about short term and long term fulfillments of prophecy.) (also JESUS's comings)

In the NKJV the of the Chapter is: The Fall of Babylon proclaimed."

Isaiah 21:5 "5 Prepare the table, Set a watchman in the tower, Eat and drink. Arise, you princes, Anoint the shield!"

Isaiah 21:9 "9 And look, here comes a chariot of men with a pair of horsemen!" Then he answered and said, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen! And all the carved images of her gods He has broken to the ground."

This passage describes the Fall of Babylon that is fulfilled in Daniel Chapter 5. That it would fall during a drunken party.

There are a series of six chapters that deal with Babylon's future in the Bible. They are:

Isaiah Chapter 13 & 14

Jeremiah Chapter 50 & 51

Revelation Chapter 17 & 18. (Assign homework)

Let's turn to Isaiah Chapter 13. In the NKJV the chapter is titled: "Proclamation Against Babylon."

In Chapter 13, this passage is speaking a yet future destruction of Babylon. It also contains a short term fulfilment of the fall of Babylon.

Isaiah 13:1

"1 The burden against Babylon which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw."

Isaiah 13:6-7

"6 Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.

7 Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt."

Isaiah 13:9

"9 Behold, the day of the Lord comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it."

Isaiah 13:17

"17 "Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, Who will not regard silver; And as for gold, they will not delight in it."

Isaiah 13:19–20

"19 And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, The beauty of the Chaldeans' pride, Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

20 It will never be inhabited, Nor will it be settled from generation to generation; Nor will the Arabian pitch tents there, Nor will the shepherds make their sheepfolds there."

Isaiah Chapter 13 verses 6-7,9, 19-20 describe a yet future judgement and complete destruction of Babylon.

Isaiah Chapter 13 verse 17 describes the short conquest of Babylon by Medes; who joined by the Persians. For Zechariah this would have been the recent past.

Turn to Isaiah Chapter 14 verse 22

Isaiah Chapter 14 begins with the fall of the King of Babylon to the Fall of Lucifer. It then talks about Babylon being destroyed.

Isaiah 14:22–23

"22 "For I will rise up against them," says the Lord of hosts, "And cut off from Babylon the name and remnant, And offspring and posterity," says the Lord.

23 "I will also make it a possession for the porcupine, And marshes of muddy water; I will sweep it with the broom of destruction," says the Lord of hosts."

This passage in Isaiah Chapter 14 verses 22 to 23 is yet future.

Please turn to Jeremiah Chapter 50. So turn to the right. Jeremiah was written at least 70 to 80 earlier than Zechariah.

Jeremiah 50:9–10

"9 For behold, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon An assembly of great nations from the north country, And they shall array themselves against her; From there she shall be captured. Their arrows shall be like those of an expert warrior; None shall return in vain.

10 And Chaldea shall become plunder; All who plunder her shall be satisfied," says the Lord."

Verse 9 could be a reference to the Medes and the Persians; or the Greeks, who conquered the Medes and the Persians. When Cyrus conquered Babylon; he did not plunder it. He turned it into an administrative center. It remained as such throughout the Persian empire.

When Alexander the Great conquered the Medes and the Persians; in 331 BC; it was one of his capitols. He died in Babylon in 323 BC. When Alexander the Great died; his kingdom was divided among his four generals. The Plunder of Chaldea could have happened here or over the following centuries.

Jeremiah 50:13

"13 Because of the wrath of the Lord She shall not be inhabited, But she shall be wholly desolate. Everyone who goes by Babylon shall be horrified And hiss at all her plagues."

This is a yet future judgement on Babylon. Where it is rendered totally desolate.

Turn to Jeremiah Chapter 51. This chapter is titled The Utter destruction of Babylon. In this Chapter there will be; as we have seen already, a short-term and a long-term fulfillment.

Jeremiah 51:1

"1 Thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, Against those who dwell in Leb Kamai, A destroying wind."

Most of your Bibles will have a footnote here for Jeremiah Chapter 51 Verse 1; in regards to Leb Kamai.

The foot note will read: A code word for Chaldea (Babylonia); may be translated *The Midst of Those Who Rise Up Against Me*.

In this phrase we see the rebellious nature of Babylon against the LORD yet

again.

Jeremiah 51:28–29

“28 Prepare against her the nations, With the kings of the Medes, Its governors and all its rulers, All the land of his dominion.

29 And the land will tremble and sorrow; For every purpose of the Lord shall be performed against Babylon, To make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant.”

Verse 28 - the short term fulfilled by Medes and Persians.

Verse 29: yet future.

Jeremiah 51:37

37 Babylon shall become a heap, A dwelling place for jackals, An astonishment and a hissing, Without an inhabitant.

Jeremiah 51:56–58

“56 Because the plunderer comes against her, against Babylon, And her mighty men are taken. Every one of their bows is broken; For the Lord is the God of recompense, He will surely repay.

57 “And I will make drunk Her princes and wise men, Her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake,” says the King, Whose name is the Lord of hosts.

58 Thus says the Lord of hosts: “The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, And her high gates shall be burned with fire; The people will labor in vain, And the nations, because of the fire; And they shall be weary.””

These verses are yet future and will tie in to Revelation Chapter 17 & 18.

Critics will state that all of these judgements against Babylon have already happened in the past. However Zechariah wrote saw these visions; including the woman and the Ephah in 519 BC. Babylon was still present in New Testament times.

1 Peter 5:13

“13 She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son.”

Peter the Apostle visited Babylon. Babylon today is inhabited; (location and Saddam Hussein)

I believe that GOD is not finished with Babylon. HE will judge this city and destroy it for its sin; and for the Nations of the World to be drunk with it's wickedness. It will be rebuilt.

Turn Back to Zechariah Chapter 5.

Share the Gospel

Zechariah 5:7–8 "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."

Zechariah 5:11 NLT

11 "He replied, "To the land of Babylonia, where they will build a temple for the basket. And when the temple is ready, they will set the basket there on its pedestal."

As we discussed briefly tonight, the Ephah and the talent would have been used for trade. Commercialism

And verse in the NLT states that a temple will be built.

Babylon also represents a Commercial and a religious system. We will look at this more next time.