

Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption



“When It Looks Like They Got Away With It”

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Zech. 5:1-4; Ezra 4:1-6; Ezra 5:1-2; Ex. 34:6-7; Lev. 19:11-18; Ps. 15:1-5; Ps. 73; Is. 55:11

Most of us have experienced moments when someone twisted the truth, manipulated a situation, or took advantage of others—and appeared to get away with it. Perhaps someone made a false accusation, broke a promise, abused a position of authority, or lied without facing any visible consequences. Meanwhile, those who tried to do what was right were left carrying the damage. In those moments, it is natural to ask, “Does the LORD see this? Is there going to be any accountability? Why does it seem as though those who twist the system keep winning?”

That was the setting surrounding Zechariah’s vision. The returned exiles had begun rebuilding the Temple, but their enemies intimidated them, discouraged them, bribed officials, and wrote false accusations against them. Eventually, the work stopped for years. Yet God raised up Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people, and the rebuilding began again. The visions of Zechariah repeatedly assured them that ADONAI was in their midst, that He was the wall of fire around them, and that His purposes would be accomplished—not by human might or power, but by His Spirit. Then Zechariah turned, lifted his eyes, and suddenly saw something startling: a massive scroll flying across the land.

1. GOD’S WORD IS OPEN, UNMISSABLE, AND ALREADY IN MOTION

Zechariah writes, “*Once again I lifted up my eyes and behold, I saw a flying scroll.*” When the angel asked what he saw, Zechariah answered, “*I see a flying scroll twenty cubits long and ten cubits wide*” (Zech. 5:1-2). This was no ordinary scroll. At approximately thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide, it would have looked more like a massive billboard than a document. It was unfurled, visible, and flying openly through the air. Nothing about its message was hidden. Everyone could see it, and no one could pretend it was not there. Its dimensions also correspond to the dimensions of the porch of Solomon’s Temple.

Although Zechariah does not explicitly explain the significance, it is reasonable to see in this a reminder that God’s judgment begins among the people who bear His Name. His Word was going forth from the place associated with His presence, His holiness, and His house. This was not a human accusation or a verdict written by corrupt officials. Human hands had not sent this scroll. It came from God Himself. It moved with speed, carried divine authority, and announced that the God who sees the whole earth had not overlooked what had taken place.

2. GOD SEES THOSE WHO ABUSE JUSTICE AND APPEAR TO GO UNPUNISHED

The angel explained, *“This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land: everyone who steals will be swept away from here according to it, and everyone who swears will be swept away from here according to it”* (Zech. 5:3). The Hebrew language in this verse is challenging, particularly the word often translated “swept away.” The word can also carry the legal sense of being acquitted, declared innocent, or left unpunished. The picture appears to be of people who stole from others, swore falsely that they were innocent, and then walked away from the legal process without consequence.

Theft and false testimony are not unrelated offenses. The thief takes what belongs to another and then swears falsely in order to escape accountability. This same connection appears in the Torah: *“You are not to steal. You are not to lie. You are not to deceive one another. You are not to swear by My Name falsely, and so profane the Name of your God. I am ADONAI”* (Lev. 19:11–12). The flying scroll declared that those who abused the gracious protections of the law, manipulated the system, oppressed their neighbors, and falsely invoked God’s Name had not escaped divine justice. Human courts might acquit them, officials might overlook them, and society might even reward them—but ADONAI saw the truth.

3. GOD’S JUSTICE REACHES THE CENTER OF THE HOUSE

ADONAI-Tzva’ot declares, *“I will send it out ... and it will enter into the house of the thief and into the house of the one who swears falsely by My Name and will reside inside his house destroying it, both its wood and its stones”* (Zech. 5:4). The previous verse described the scroll as going forth, but here God makes clear that He is the One sending it. Divine judgment is not an impersonal force operating on its own. ADONAI remains sovereign over the process. He sees, He speaks, and He acts according to His holiness and justice.

The scroll does not merely pass over the offender’s doorway. It enters the house and lodges there, like a guest who has been invited to stay overnight. It moves into the very center of the home and remains until its work is completed. The false oath itself became the invitation. The offender called upon God’s Name while lying, declaring consequences over himself if his words were untrue. Just as he had entered another person’s life and taken what was not his, the consequence of his deception would enter the most intimate place of his own life. God’s Word does not remain on the surface. It reaches the hidden places, exposes what has been covered, and brings every matter to its proper conclusion.

CONCLUSION

Stay True and Trust the Judge. This vision would have offered powerful assurance to those who had been falsely accused and intimidated into abandoning the work of God. Their enemies had lied about them, manipulated the authorities, and successfully stopped the rebuilding for years. From the human perspective, it appeared that deception had won. But ADONAI showed Zechariah that His Word was already going forth. The enemy’s apparent victory was temporary. God’s purposes would prevail, His

house would be rebuilt, and those who thought they had escaped accountability had not escaped His sight.

This passage also calls us to examine our own hearts. The flying scroll is comforting when we have been wronged, but it is confronting when we have hidden compromise, manipulated the truth, taken advantage of someone, or used spiritual language to cover deception. Today is an opportunity to bring everything into the light. Release into God's hands those who have wronged you, and resist the temptation to seek vengeance for yourself. At the same time, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything in you that is dishonest, unjust, or hidden. Confess it, turn from it, and receive the mercy God freely gives to those who repent. His justice is certain, but so is His compassion. He does not desire anyone to perish, but calls us to come home, walk in truth, and live with clean hands and a pure heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the massive size and open, flying position of the scroll communicate about the source, visibility, and authority of its message?
2. How were stealing and swearing falsely connected in Zechariah's vision and in Lev. 19:11-18?
3. Why would this vision have been especially meaningful to the returned exiles who had been falsely accused and intimidated into stopping the rebuilding of the Temple?
4. Have you ever watched someone manipulate a situation or mistreat others and apparently escape accountability? How does this passage challenge you to entrust that situation to God?
5. Is there any area of your own life where you have minimized dishonesty, broken a promise, taken advantage of someone, or tried to protect yourself through deception? What would sincere repentance and restitution look like?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, You are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth. You see what human eyes miss, and You know what is hidden in every heart. Help us to trust You when injustice appears to prosper and when those who twist the truth seem to escape accountability. Keep us from bitterness, vengeance, and despair. At the same time, search our hearts and expose every place where we have walked in dishonesty, selfishness, or deception. Give us courage to confess our sin, make things right where possible, and walk before You with clean hands and a pure heart. Let Your Word accomplish everything You send it to do, and help us remain faithful to Your work, trusting that Your goodness, justice, and purposes will prevail.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.