



**UFOs, Zechariah, and The Flying Big Ten?
Strange Manned Flying Objects from Outer Space? In the Bible?
Zechariah 5**

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No, I am not off the reservation, not at all. I warned you that Zechariah was a lot like the book of Revelation. Welcome to some of the weird stuff we find in the Bible.

This is not going to be all about my thoughts regarding UFO's and the Bible. UFOs are demonic by the way; and the technology they use, fallen angel tech (See Genesis 6:1-4, 1 Enoch 7 – 10, Jubilees 5).

Part of my responsibility as a pastor is to equip and warn. Since we are now hitting a beloved favorite of the UFO and Ancient Aliens crowd, let me bring a bit of light to the topic that we see in Zechariah 5.

It is not about little green dudes. It is also not a 6th century BC appearance of aliens from outer space and unusual alien space craft. This is a vision from God.

As we have learned, the world has a tendency to grab ahold of things in the Bible and put their own spin on it. Before I was saved, I was part of that group and wrote a paper about Ezekiel 1 and the Hollow Earth Theory. Now I know, it is all bunk. Since we know Satan is behind this, and he is a liar and a deceiver, I want us to be aware of this. Especially since pre-Jesus, I was one of those.



John Keel is a non-believer who did significant research into the history of UFOs. He came to a rather unwelcome conclusion based on the research he did.

The thousands of contacts with the entities indicate that they are liars and put-on artists. The UFO manifestations seem to be, by and large, merely minor variations of the age-old demonological phenomenon. (Keel 2013, 326)

Yes, he attributed them to demons.

Why am I mentioning this at all as part of a study of Zechariah? Because this section of scripture is one of those sections that UFO aficionados like to use as a proof text for UFOs in the Bible. It isn't that at all.

They are the ones off the reservation.

By the way, their favorite section of scripture to misuse is Ezekiel 1 when the throne room comes down to Ezekiel and he tries to describe a multidimensional scene and beings using his limited 7th century BC language.

For us, we must remember what we are told in Ephesians 6.

Ephesians 6:12

"For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age." (GNB)

And they lie, all the time. The prophet Joel warned us of what the last days would look like, and basically, we are now there.

Joel 2:30

"I will produce portents both in the sky and on the earth— blood, fire, and columns of smoke." (NET 2nd ed.)

There are two others, both scientists and non-believers, who also seriously researched this topic.

Men like J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallée are two scientists who have actually penned the idea that UFOs and the entities that are associated with them are not from our dimension, but are visitors from other dimensions. While Hynek stopped there with his assertions, Vallée has gone much farther in his theory and he suggests that the entities that call themselves extraterrestrials are not from other planets, but are trans-dimensional, and not only that, but he feels that they are malevolent and that their plan is to change human beings for their own devices. (Ruffino and Jordan 2010, Kindle Locations 941-945)

For those of us who are believers, we must always remember that Satan is a liar, a deceiver and he hates man, especially those of us who have gone over to the other side by becoming believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

So the conclusions of Jacques Vallée, a highly educated secular scientist, are the following. The beings that pilot UFOs and who abduct humans aren't extraterrestrial. They are demonic entities who are conducting sadistic experiments on human beings in an attempt to involve them in an occult initiation (disguised as "enlightenment") in order to change the human belief system and our attitude toward the paranormal and also toward extraterrestrial life. (Ruffino and Jordan 2010, Kindle Locations 1190-1193)

The truth about UFOs can be known. Indeed, the UFO mystery is a mystery solved. Earth is not being visited by aliens from another planet, but some people are being visited by spirit beings who want everyone to think they are aliens from another planet. (Ross, Samples and Clark 2002, 169)



In other words, the enemy has connected UFOs with the occult in order to convince the world to accept them as real thus opening themselves up to demonic activity, known in the UFO world as alien abduction. Enough on that. Unfortunately, the world likes to hijack and misinterpret scripture whenever it meets their agenda to do so.

It is a way for the world to show you that they are tolerant of what the Bible says when in reality, they aren't.

We are in Zechariah 5, home to the 6th and 7th visions seen by Zechariah on the evening of February 15, 519 BC. He is not asleep but is being given the opportunity to participate in a series of Zoom calls from heaven. We may call it a vision, but it was very real and there is two-way communication taking place. Participants are answering his questions and his guide appears to be the Angel of the Lord. The pre-incarnate Jesus Christ.

The first 5 visions have all been positive and encouragement to the leadership of the remnant who have returned to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple.

What we see now in the visions is a shift, the discussion will move from encouragement to accountability and judgment. There is a reason for this. Before all the blessings can fully take place, all evil and wickedness must be dealt with.

The prophet includes in his area of vision the hour in which he lived and moves from that time to the judgment of the wicked in the last days, just before the setting up of the kingdom of the Messiah on earth. (Feinberg 1990, 293)

Zechariah 5:1–4

"Then I raised my eyes again and looked, and behold, there was a flying scroll. And he said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see a flying scroll; its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits." Then he said to me, "This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the entire land; everyone who steals certainly will be purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears falsely will be purged away according to the writing on the other side. I will make it go forth," declares the LORD of armies, "and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and destroy it with its timber and stones." (NASB 2020)

After completing his discussion in chapter 4, Zechariah looks up again as apparently some movement has caught his eye. What he sees is indeed a bit mind boggling. He sees a large flying scroll, one large enough to pass for the kind of banners we see pulled by aircraft every now and then along the beach here in South Florida. But there is nothing pulling this large scroll, it is self-propelled. Cue the Twilight Zone theme song.

Once again, the Angel of the Lord wants to know what it is Zechariah now sees. There is a need to ensure he gets it correct.

What he sees is detailed enough for him to even determine how large it is. As scrolls go, the length is not out of order, but the width sure is. "Most scrolls found at Qumran, for example, are 11 inches tall or less, not 15 feet." (Nogalski 2011, 864)

This flying scroll is the Word of God. We see scrolls referenced elsewhere in the Bible, also from those receiving visions from the Lord. From Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 2:9–3:4

"And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe. And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat



this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them." (ESV)

For Ezekiel, the scroll was the Word of God, and he was charged to digest what the Word has to say. Let it become a part of him by taking it in and then he was to give it to others. For those of us the Lord has asked to share His word, this makes sense. The Word many times seems bitter as we read and understand what He is saying, but it is God's Word and it changes lives which makes it sweet. John had a similar experience.

Revelation 10:8–11

"Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings." (ESV)

The context here in Zechariah tells us that this is the Word of God. When asked, Zechariah relates what he sees, a flying scroll, 30 feet by 15 feet, not rolled out but spread out to be read on both sides. For those of you wondering about the significance of the size, it is the exact size of the Holy Place in the Tabernacle.

In fact, looking at the dimensions they show up twice. They are like the dimensions in the holy place in the tabernacle of Moses and the porch of Solomon's Temple (where the Law was usually read) were of the same dimensions (1 Ki 6:3). The vision would teach us that the holiness of the sanctuary of the Lord is the measure of sin and that judgment must begin at the house of God. (See 1 Pe 4:17-18.) (Feinberg 1990, 293)

The fact that it is flying "suggests the active nature of God pursuing the judgment. It also denotes quickness in carrying it out, as in using the swift Babylonians in the past exile (cf. Hab. 1) and in His dispatch in any future judgment." (Rosscup 2008, 1427)

Judgement? Yes indeed, it speaks to judgement over the entire planet.

Furthermore, it is opened. God is the one who has opened it for all to read. "God chose neither to conceal his message nor to disclose it only to a select few. The scroll publicly proclaims the Lord's condemnation of the people's sin and his call for them to repent." (Klein 2008, 170-171)

Once Zechariah explains what it is he sees, then he receives more information regarding the meaning of this message board in the sky.

Zechariah 5:3

"Then he said to me, "This is the curse that is going forth over the face of the entire land; everyone who steals certainly will be purged away according to the writing on one side, and everyone who swears falsely will be purged away according to the writing on the other side." (NASB 2020)

Based on the content related to be on this scroll, it is clearly a curse for everyone who is involved in the conduct being called out.

More specifically, this is the Ten Commandments, and it is for the entire planet. The word in Hebrew translated land is the word for earth. The curse, or rather curses, that are going forth over the face of the



entire earth. All connected to God's law since that is what man, who rejects the gift of salvation, has decided he wants to be judged on. This is not just for Israel.

For those of us who have accepted the gift of salvation though, things are very different.

We are freed from the law by the body of Christ. He was made sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. He is the end of the law for righteousness to all them that believe. It is by his obedience that many are made righteous. (Rom. 5:19.) We obeyed in Him, according to the teaching of the Apostle, in Romans 5:12–21, in the same sense in which we sinned in Adam. (Hodge 1997, 143)

The message on this large flying billboard though, is for those who have rejected salvation.

The standard of the judgment is God's law. In Romans 2:12 the apostle affirms that "all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law." In the larger context of Romans 2:1–16 it is evident that both Jews and Gentiles will be judged because all have sinned. All will be judged by the law in an impartial manner. (Hasel 2020)

This billboard has the contents of the Big Ten on it. Half on one side with the focus being brought onto the 8th commandment, "You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15, NKJV) and then on the opposite side, the 3rd commandment dealing with taking the Lord's name in vain, which is also a form of false swearing, invoking God's name when you have no intent of fulfilling what it is you are swearing to do.

Exodus 20:7

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." (NKJV)

To those who will not repent of their sins, Christ, at His second advent, shall come, and smite them with a curse (Mal. 4:6). The Gentiles are amenable to the curse of the law, as they have its substance, so far as they have not seared and corrupted conscience, "written on their hearts" (Rom. 2:15). (Fausset n.d., 674)

They will be purged away. Then there is verse 4.

Zechariah 5:4

"I will make it go forth," declares the LORD of armies, "and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My name; and it will spend the night within that house and destroy it with its timber and stones." (NASB 2020)

The picture is one of the scroll seeking out and finding those who merit punishment for their sins.

The picture being given here is one which is pointing to events that will take place at the conclusion of the Tribulation. After all the dust has settled from the Battle of Armageddon, there are all of those who have survived the Tribulation that must be dealt with. The curses on the billboard have already removed, in judgment and wrath, many who will simply await the final judgement at the Great White Throne. That judgement takes place at the end of the millennium just prior to the beginning of the eternal state as we return to a new earth and a new Jerusalem with the Lord. Jesus tells us what to expect in Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:31–46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was



naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life." (NRSVue)

For those who survive the horrors of the Tribulation, but did not accept salvation offered through Christ, the same message that is communicated by the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (Revelation 7:1-8, 14:1-5) as well as the angels who announce it globally (Revelation 14:6-8), they are sent to join the first 2 occupants of a place we know as hell.

They cannot hide from the scroll (Revelation 6:16). The Lord is the one who will make it go forth. There is no place to hide from the Lord.

Proverbs 15:3

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on those who are evil and those who are good." (NET 2nd ed.)

They are purged from the earth as the curse on the scroll promises.

Now we come to the next vision.

In the future, individual sinners will be removed through divine judgment.

Zechariah 5:5–11

"Then the angel who had been speaking with me went out and said to me, "Now raise your eyes and see what this is that is going forth." And I said, "What is it?" Then he said, "This is the ephah going forth." Again he said, "This is their appearance in all the land. And behold, a lead cover was lifted up." He continued, "And this is a woman sitting inside the ephah." Then he said, "This is Wickedness!" And he thrust her into the middle of the ephah and threw the lead weight on its opening. Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of the stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens. So I said to the angel who was speaking with me, "Where are they taking the ephah?" Then he said to me, "To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar; and when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal." (NASB 2020)

Lookie there, flying saucers in the Bible. Again, nope. But this has not stopped the flights of fancy from many.

One other thing we see in this section of scripture. Two women with wings. "Despite the fact that even some scholars speak about these women with wings as angels, there is no textual basis for identifying the women as angels. The "women" (Hebrew, *našîm*) are never described as angels." (Heiser 2018, 164)

But if you ever wonder why artists put wings on angels and give them feminine features, this is where it comes from.



Additionally, if you have ever considered the notion that there are male and female angels, again something that arises from this section of scripture. Here is the thing, angels do not have gender. “They do not—indeed they cannot be gendered, since they are spirit beings and gender is a biological attribute. When angels assume visible form or flesh to interact with human beings, Scripture always has them male. The flesh they assume is gendered because it is flesh, not because that corporality is an intrinsic part of angelic nature.” (Heiser 2018, 165)

This vision begins with the Angel who has been guiding Zechariah moving out in front of him and telling him to look up. Apparently, these visions took place near Area 51 as once again there is some unusual flying object seen. This time it is a large barrel or basket that is used for a common household measure. Such as we use t-spoons with various sizes to measure ingredients for cooking. The ephah was the largest unit of dry measure for the Jews. It is estimated to be somewhere between 5 and 10 gallons.

Zechariah takes one look at this container and watches it.

How long we are not told, but the next question is one all of us would ask as we see this item flying out bound from us. He asks, “What is it?”

First the obvious, it is an ephah and it is out bound. Ok, got it. But what is it?

There is something about this container that is not right. The NASB reads “again he said, “This is their appearance in all the land.””

Prior to going into exile, Amos (Amos 8:4-7) addressed the problem with dishonesty in the marketplace. False weights and measures were in common usage as most of the marketplace had moved towards making a fast buck and it didn’t matter who was cheated to get it. This is still a problem. The Septuagint makes this a bit clearer.

Zechariah 5:6

“And I said, “What is it?” And he said, “This is the measurement, the one going out.” And he said, “This is their injustice in all the earth.”” (Brannan, et al. 2020, Zech 5:6)

Just as the flying sign was to all the earth, so is this container showing the greed of the marketplace all in the name of making a buck.

This flying container has an unusual cover on it, one made of lead. The cover is lifted up so Zechariah can see what is inside and he sees a woman sitting inside the ephah. This is, like the scroll, an out of size container much larger than what it should be.

The woman inside, we are told, is wickedness. This is a picture that is picked up on and further commented on by John in Revelation 17 where she is identified as the woman on the scarlet beast.

Wickedness was being contained and as soon as the lid is removed, she tries to escape. We tend to think of wickedness as the acts of human beings, sinners, just being involved in their day-to-day business. But when she tries to escape and is thrown back down into the ephah and the lid replaced, we are told that wickedness is more than individual acts. This is objective wickedness which is sourced from the enemy as well as our sin nature.

Being objective wickedness, it “consists not merely in wrong-doing and the evil acts of human beings but is a power in itself, let loose upon the world and upon the people of God.” (Achte-meier 1986, 128)

Our culture rebels at the thought of intelligent malevolent evil beings who reside in the unseen realm wanting nothing more than our destruction. You want aliens, these we know are real. They would rather have us believe that they truly are aliens.



Ephesians 6:12

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Evil, or as we are showing him to be, the devil/Satan, is real. He never sleeps and doesn't just lie every now and then, but that is his nature. Everything he says and does is meant to deceive and lie. Our culture simply does not accept that, and we have difficulty dealing with it as well.

When we become followers of Jesus Christ and swear our allegiance to Him visibly through baptism, the enemy knows we have changed sides. We have become participants in a warfare that began back in Genesis 3.

Actually, we have always been in this war, but on the other side. If we are following company line, we simply do not believe in the “fairy tales” about the devil. We are kept in the dark and lied to. Aliens and flying saucers are a good fiction to believe in rather than the truth of Jesus Christ. Once we see the truth, then the warfare becomes more open.

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober and alert. Your enemy the devil, like a roaring lion, is on the prowl looking for someone to devour.” (NET 2nd ed.)

The Greek word for prowl is in a verb form that means he is always prowling; he never stops prowling. There is no truce, no stopping, he wants you and I destroyed. He will get others to lie about us, gaslight us, or do whatever it takes to keep us from following the Lord as He wants. That is why we are shown here that wickedness is violently thrown back down into the ephah, and the cover put back on.

In our time, evil is the Big Lie, the corrupted ethos of an age, the overwhelming force for wrong which holds individuals and societies captive to its powers and turns human life into slavery to sin (cf. Rom. 6:16–17). (Achte-meier 1986, 129)

We must renounce sin and evil everyday as we seek to be the living sacrifice that Paul talks about.

Romans 12:1–2

“So then, my brothers and sisters, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.” (GNB)

The Spirit's direction of our hearts and minds works in tandem with God's transformational revelation to us, changing the wrong ideas that led to the wrong behavior in the first place. (Runge 2014, 214)

Zechariah helps us to understand just how malevolent this wickedness is. It has been forced back into the container as those. Our job is to reject it and renounce it.

As we learned from the vision seen earlier in this chapter, those who commit evil acts must be purged from the earth. A picture of the end of the age.

Here, wickedness itself, must also be removed from the land. Imprisoned and removed. There will be no escape from the coming judgement of the Lord upon the planet.



Zechariah 5:9

"Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there two women were coming out with the wind in their wings; and they had wings like the wings of the stork, and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heavens." (NASB 2020)

Two unidentified women with wings as a stork show up. We are not told they are angels. Their job is to carry the ephah. Their job is to remove wickedness.

Storks are migratory birds, so the next question makes sense as well.

Zechariah 5:10–11

"So I said to the angel who was speaking with me, "Where are they taking the ephah?" Then he said to me, "To build a temple for her in the land of Shinar; and when it is prepared, she will be set there on her own pedestal." (NASB 2020)

When we read Shinar, we recall that we have seen that location before. It is the site of the first coordinated rebellion of mankind against God. Babel.

Genesis 11:1–4

"Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and fire them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." (NRSVue)

This was the land where man had first united in a universal rebellion against God. It stands throughout Scripture for confusion in spiritual matters, for idolatry, for spiritual uncleanness (Rev 17:3-5). (Feinberg 1990, 296-297)

Throughout the Bible we see two city names being referenced, Jerusalem which is the city of God; and Babylon, the city of man. This woman, wickedness, has been carried to the location of Babel and Babylon. We see her in all her glory in Revelation 17.

At Babel, the nations of the world, all of one language at the time, had directly disobeyed God and had all gone into a single city.

A key expression, repeated five times (in Genesis 11), is "all the earth," for the entire human race is presumed to be sinful. The postdiluvian generations, having learned nothing from history, have proved themselves to be disappointingly out of harmony with God. (Sarna 1989, 81)

They want to approach God on their conditions, not His.

They are building a manmade mountain in order to commune with divine beings, ostensibly some of the same type who came down to Mount Hermon.

Its function, it is generally agreed, was to symbolize a mountain. The sacred mountain played an important role in most religions in ancient times. Rooted in the earth, with its head lost in the clouds, it was taken to be the meeting point of heaven and earth and, as such, the natural arena of divine activity. On its heights the gods were imagined to have their abode. Constituting the obvious channel of communication between the celestial and terrestrial spheres, the sacred mountain was looked upon as the center of the universe, the "navel of the earth." (Sarna 1989, 82)



Revelation 17:3–6

“So he carried me away in the spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her prostitution, and on her forehead was written a name, a mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of whores and of earth’s abominations.” And I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the witnesses to Jesus. When I saw her, I was greatly amazed.” (NRSVue)

God is stating that all wickedness is developing along well-defined lines and in due course it will be headed up in that place which has always stood for defiance against God. (Feinberg 1990, 297)

We are told here in Zechariah that wickedness will reside in Babylon. It is an integral part of the city of man. In fact, a Temple, the word is house, will be built there for it implying that is where wickedness will go to stay.

This is prophetic of the end of mystery Babylon as well as commercial Babylon which we see not only reflected in Revelation 17, but also in Revelation 18.

Isaiah gives us background on the impact physically and supernaturally to the area.

Isaiah 13:19–22

“And Babylon, which is called esteemed from the king of the Chaldeans, will be the way God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It will not be inhabited for eternity, nor will they enter it for many generations, nor will Arabians go through it, nor will shepherds by any means rest in it. And wild animals will rest there, and the houses will be filled with sound; and Sirens will rest there, and divine beings will dance there. And donkey-centaurs will settle there, and hedgehogs will make dens among their houses. It is coming quickly, and it will not delay.” (LES2)

The Septuagint has some ideas in it about the final destination for evil.

The wilderness or rather the desert was a place that a Jew would connect as part of the realm of the dead, belonging to the enemy. They believed that it was inhabited by the fallen.

What is being related by Isaiah is that the final destruction of Babylon will have a physical impact on the physical residents, as well as an impact on those who operated there in the unseen realm.

This idea of cosmic geography is used to relate that it is not something that belongs to YAHWEH but will be the dwelling place of the unclean. For more background, let's look at Leviticus 17.

Leviticus 17:3–7

“Blood guilt will be accounted to any man from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox or a lamb or a goat inside the camp or outside the camp, but has not brought it to the entrance of the Meeting Tent to present it as an offering to the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD. He has shed blood, so that man will be cut off from the midst of his people. This is so that the Israelites will bring their sacrifices that they are sacrificing in the open field to the LORD at the entrance of the Meeting Tent—to the priest—and sacrifice them there as peace-offering sacrifices to the LORD. The priest is to splash the blood on the altar of the LORD at the entrance of the Meeting Tent, and offer the fat up in smoke for a soothing aroma to the LORD. So the people must no longer offer their sacrifices to the **goat demons**, acting like prostitutes by going after them. This is to be a perpetual statute for them throughout their generations.” (NET 2nd ed.)

The word translated “goat demon” is the word שְׂעִירִים (serim) - “a type of demon: pl. שְׂעִירִים (serim): the hairy one, a goat (buck) demon, satyr...” (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 1341)



Fast forward back to Isaiah 13:21 “But desert creatures will lie down there, And their houses will be full of owls; Ostriches also will live there, and shaggy goats will frolic there.” (NASB 2020) and the word translated “shaggy goats” in the NASB is the same word שְׂעִירִים (serim) from Leviticus 17:7

We also see three other terms in Isaiah 13:21 as well.

“desert creatures” צִיִּים (siyyim) “...a collective designation for “desert creatures” with partly demonic features.” (Müller 2003, 325)

“owls” אֵיִים (iyyim) howling desert animals; usually eagle owl... (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 29)

“ostriches” יַעֲנָה (ya anah) ostrich; as wailing; of loneliness; of desolation, as dwelling among ruins; living in desert. (Brown, Driver and Briggs 1977, 419)

The animals and creatures enumerated in the oracles against Babylon in Isa. 13 and Jer. 50, and against Edom in Isa. 34, represent a world hostile to human beings that is turned loose and decimates the human world whenever people are subject to Yahweh’s judgment. In all three passages the šîyîm appear together with benôṭ ya’anâ, “ostriches,” and ’îyîm, “jackals” or “island goblins,” and in Isa. 13:21–22 and 34:13–14 also with tannîm, “jackals” (a subspecies to be distinguished from ’îyîm?) and the puzzling še’îrîm, “hairy ones/satyrs,” mixed creatures combining goats and demons, which J. Wellhausen compares with the Arab. ġinn. Additional eerie creatures appear in Isa. 13:21; 34:11, 15 whose identities are difficult to determine both because of the peculiarities of ancient Near Eastern taxonomy and its criteria for observation on the one hand, and the proximity of such creatures to clearly mythical beings on the other. (Müller 2003, 328)

The idea being communicated is that the final fall of Babylon will result in the only inhabitants being demonic creatures howling and wailing among fallen divine beings. This is a picture that is consistent with one drawn by Jesus as the final dwelling place of the wicked.

Matthew 13:40–42

“As the poisonous weeds are collected and burned with fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather from his kingdom everything that causes sin as well as all lawbreakers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (NET 2nd ed.)

What we have in Zechariah is a picture of the fall of mystery Babylon as well as commercial Babylon. As judgement begins to fall, she tries to escape but is thrown down and imprisoned there.

The Isaiah passage we looked at, by using terms to specifically point back to Leviticus 17:7, Isaiah also relays that the final fall of Babylon is all about the final judgment of those demons and fallen divine beings who have been the bane of Israel’s history. As we saw in our Revelation study, the Babylon of the beast is a place of demon possession and supernaturally evil activity.

They have been involved in causing chaos to the nation and to believers from day one even to the point of extracting worship from the nation while in the desert. The city of man, Babylon, when destroyed will be a suitable prison only for fallen divine beings and the descendants of those fallen watchers, the Nephilim spirits also known as demons.

Both visions speak to the removal of sin, those who practice it as well as those in the unseen realm who have been involved in confusing us about it.

We have one more vision left in this section of Zechariah which we will pick up on next time.



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