

Zechariah 5

3-6-03

“A Flying Scroll & a Woman in a Basket!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. The next 2 visions are: **A Flying Scroll & A Woman in a Basket.**
 - 1.1.1. Or, “*A Flying Squirrel & A Basket Case?(or a Babe in a Basket?)*”
 - 1.1.2. **Ask:** Again, why does God sometimes use such strange symbolism to communicate to us?
 - 1.1.2.1. They are **forceful**(the Beast). They communicate **quickly**(I am the Bread of Life). Can help the **memory**(how many Virgins were there?). Effective in **illustrating**(I’m the Vine/Branch). Help in **clarifying** (He breathed life into Adam; the familiar explains the unfamiliar). Helps in **obscuring**(parables).
 - 1.1.2.2. Sometimes they can stand for more than one thing. An **Eagle** can stand for **America**...but it also can stand for **Germany**. (so it depends on its context!)

2. A FLYING SCROLL! (1-4)

- 2.1. **SIN IS REPAID!** {Flying Scroll} **Vision #6** (1-4)
- 2.2. “*I think I saw this on an episode of Twilight Zone?*”
- 2.3. **What he saw!** (1,2)
 - 2.3.1. Here we have a huge **Scroll** unrolled.
 - 2.3.1.1. Its dimensions are 30’x15’.
 - 2.3.1.2. Made of papyrus or leather.
 - 2.3.1.3. **30’** was the longest length they used, but they were only about **10”** wide. (which was sufficient for Isaiah or Genesis)
 - 2.3.1.3.1. In **Egypt** they had 1 scroll 133’x17” wide{Papyrus Horris}
 - 2.3.2. It was an **airborne** document! - “I see a flying scroll”
- 2.4. **What it was!** (3,4)
 - 2.4.1. It was written on **both** sides, each having a separate curse.
 - 2.4.1.1. Like in Rev.5:1 “And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll **written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.**”

- 2.4.2. **Ask:** What would be another analogy you could give today of something flying through the air bringing a message, or advertising something?
- 2.4.2.1. Banner Tow Planes; or the old Sky writing planes; carrier pigeons; Blimp(w/advertisement); Leaflets over Baghdad.
- 2.4.3. One side of the scroll read “**Thief**”, & the other “**Perjurer**”(swear falsely by My name).
- 2.4.3.1. **Interesting:** this is the 3rd & 8th commandment he names here. {stealing & swearing falsely}
- 2.4.3.2. Which as **Charles Feinberg** noted, they are **both** in the **middle** of the tablets of the law!
- 2.4.3.2.1. I picture the 2 tablets with 2 bulls-eyes on them, w/#3 & #8 the red of the bulls-eye.
- 2.4.4. **These curses were because they didn't carry out God's commands.**
- 2.4.5. **These messages also were equipped with an unerring homing device on them(4a).** [smart bomb accuracy]
- 2.4.5.1. **Example:** We do this every day, if you have & use **text messages** on your **cell phone**. It **says** exactly what you want it to say, & **goes** only to the person you sent it!
- 2.5. **What he meant!**
- 2.5.1. This was a reminder that “**God's purifying judgment rest on those who break His written Law.**”
- 2.5.2. If the dimensions mean anything, then as you might remember, they are the **exact dimensions** of the tabernacles **Holy Place**.
- 2.5.2.1. Thus, our **worship**(*the Holy Place*) is only valid if we “**carry out His commands**”. (i.e.) “**To obey is still better than sacrifices.**”
- 2.5.3. **God condemns thieves & liars!**
- 2.5.3.1. **He still hates these sins today!** Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, “**Therefore, putting away lying,** "Let each one of you **speak truth** with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.” – “Let him who **stole steal** no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”¹

¹ Ephesians 5:25,28

- 2.5.3.2. Rev.22:15 “But outside are...and whoever loves and practices a lie.”
- 2.5.3.3. Satan is both...“When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” Jn.8:44
- 2.5.4. Swearing falsely...Q: How did you get out of jury duty last time?
Q: What did you say to the last police officer that pulled you over & said you were speeding, or didn't stop?
- 2.5.5. Q: Why did he list only 2 of the laws? - My question would be why that many, why not one? (Breaking one is all you need to become lawless!)
- 2.5.5.1. Q: If I'm suspended over a cliff by a chain of 10 links, how many links have to break before I fall?
- 2.5.5.2. Q: If you're pulled over by Murrieta's finest(MPD) Does it help to tell the officer that you “obeyed paying your taxes this year” & “even hadn't stolen anything lately”?
- 2.5.5.3. To break one is to become a lawless person.
- 2.5.6. Today if the Lord sent a Tow Plane over your head with 2 things written on it...what would they read?

3. A WOMAN IN A BASKET! (5-11)

- 3.1. SIN IS REMOVED! {Woman in a Basket} Vision #7
- 3.2. What he saw! (5-7,9,10)
- 3.2.1. A basket – Ephah in the KJV. Which was a dry measure(approx. 5 gallons); or a container: basket, jar, or pot.
- 3.2.1.1. Saul(Paul) was let down the city wall in one in Acts 9:25.
- 3.2.2. A lead disk(its lid) – to secure its content.
- 3.2.3. A woman sitting inside – Kind of like a Genie in a jar.
- 3.2.4. 2 women w/wings like a stork –
- 3.2.5. Shinar = Babylon/Chaldea/Iraq.
- 3.3. What it was! (8,11)
- 3.3.1. The women in the basket represented “Wickedness!”
- 3.3.1.1. Note in vs.6 that it symbolized the iniquity of all the people throughout the earth.

- 3.3.2. **Q:** Why is a **women** used to represent sin? – No sexism here.
- 3.3.2.1. They are also used as symbols of virtue Prov.7:4 **“Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,” And call understanding your nearest kin,”** [Also the church as a **bride!**]
- 3.3.2.2. Also the stork-like women are positive symbols.
- 3.3.3. The **basket** was banished to **Babylon**, a land of idolatry, an appropriate locale for wickedness – but not Israel, where God chose to dwell w/his people.
- 3.3.3.1. **After purging the Promise Land of its evil, can it become the “Holy Land!”**
- 3.4. **What he meant!**
- 3.4.1. **At the cross God put away sin! - We either receive His “putting away of our sin”, or He must “put us away”!**
- 3.4.2. **Babylon here, being a mini-hell!**
- 3.4.3. **Why Babylon?** – It was consistent in Scripture as having a **dishonorable history**.
- 3.4.3.1. Its starts back w/Nimrod in “Babel”[ie. tower of](Gk. is Babylon)
- 3.4.3.2. **It was to keep the people from scattering as God told them to do.**
- 3.4.3.3. **Babylon’s zenith power** was during Neb. Reign(604-562bc).
- 3.4.3.4. **Its decline** was I 539 by the capture of the Medes/Persians.
- 3.4.3.5. From300bc the city has **laid in decay**.
- 3.4.3.6. **Until a man named Saddam Hussein**(who they say has portrayed himself as the successor to Neb.)began to **rebuild** it in 1986.
- 3.4.4. Also we note in the **end times**(Rev.17,18) **Babylon** is represented as **“the symbol for the whole world system that caters to the appetites of sinful men & women.”**
- 3.4.4.1. **Babylon is both a city & a system:** The same way **Wall Street & Madison Ave.** are both actual streets, but they also stand for the **financial** or **advertising** enterprises.
- 3.4.4.2. **We have Ecclesiastical Babylon**(Apostate Christendom), & **Political Babylon**(which is Antichrists united empire; the last Gentile world power!)
- 3.4.4.3. **Eccl. Babylon**(*The “World Church” in the end times*) will be destroyed by **Pol. Babylon**; & **Pol. Babylon** will be destroyed by **Jesus’ Return!**

- 3.5. As this 7th Vision spoke of sin being removed! Q: What sin would you like to send away to Babylon tonight in a basket?
- 3.5.1. Often times we keep our sins like a “Genie in a Jar”; or as a Pet to be played with from time to time.
- 3.5.2. Wickedness must be removed as far as possible from home. Permanently sealed up. Left in a distant land.
- 3.5.3. Often times it is **the spirit of wickedness**, & not necessarily **the act of wickedness** we need to battle!
- 3.5.3.1. Q: What, or who, do you need to distance yourself from?
- 3.5.3.2. Remove it **totally**, remove it **completely**, **absolutely**, **wholly**, **fully**, **thoroughly**, **perfectly**, **utterly**, remove it **entirely**!
- 3.6. **Communion:** Aaron.