

October 31, 2010  
"The Curse of the Flying Scroll"  
Zechariah 5:1-4

As we have worked our way through the Visions of Zechariah, most of them prophecy blessings to God's people. They show grace toward defiled Joshua and promise the Spirit's strength to weak Zerubbabel. Yet, this vision of the Flying Scroll and the vision following it of a woman in a basket; show us God will not be mocked. Yes, He is gracious, but His grace is not meant as a license for sin. The flying scroll represents God inescapable justice. Sin will be dealt with!

I. The flying scroll represents the fact, all sin will be discovered by God –

1. As the Eagle sees and captures his pray, so God sees even hidden sin

David took great comfort in and wondered at the fact that God knew Him, and knew even all his deeds –

<For the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> O LORD, You have searched me and known me.<sup>2</sup> You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.<sup>3</sup> You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.<sup>4</sup> For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.<sup>5</sup> You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?<sup>8</sup> If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,<sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;<sup>12</sup> Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. (Psalm 139:1-12 NKJ)

2. Yet, sinners have great reason to FEAR, they cannot hide from God –

Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.<sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the

rocks of the mountains,<sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"<sup>17</sup> "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:14-17 NKJ)

II. The scroll represents the fact, God will reveal to us our particular sins, they are disclosed CLEARLY by the WORD –

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." (Zechariah 5:3 NKJ)

<sup>3</sup> Then he said to me, "This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land. For everyone who steals shall be cleaned out according to what is on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cleaned out according to what is on the other side. (Zec 5:3 ESV)

I believe these two sins are mentioned because those who commit them typically do so thinking they will GAIN by them! They often seem to. Stealing and swearing falsely often go hand in hand and allow one person to take advantage of another ---

Jesus pronounced a "woe" against the "blind guides" of Israel who practiced such deceit – Matthew 23:16-22

"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.'<sup>17</sup> 'Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold?'<sup>18</sup> 'And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.'<sup>19</sup> 'Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?'<sup>20</sup> 'Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it.<sup>21</sup> 'He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it.<sup>22</sup> 'And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. (Matthew 23:16-22 NKJ)

They think they profit from such things but God's curse eats their house - I will send it out, declares the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. And it shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones." (Zechariah 5:4 ESV)

*This large scroll in the sky, 30 by 15 feet, represents the fact God's word shows us our sins CLEARLY –*

**But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (James 1:22-25 ESV)

“Our own moral judgment is fatally flawed, like a distorted mirror in a carnival” Richard D. Phillips

*III. The dimensions of this scroll, 20 by 10 cubits, was the same as the Holy place in the Temple, from which the Priest's would read God's law - symbolizing God's determination of right and wrong! God makes the rules, not us!*

- 1. We live in a day, place and age when mere humans think they write LAW, determine right and wrong. If a court makes abortion legal does that mean a woman and an abortionist can kill her baby without guilt before God?*
- 2. Can politicians or judges decide whether homosexuality is an abomination or not?*

**"Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, Which they have prescribed (Isaiah 10:1 NKJ)**

*IV. Finally, the CURSE mentioned in verses 3 and 4 and woman in the basket, the rest of chapter 5 show us God will deal with and punish sin!*

- 1. Lying and stealing seem to those who commit them profitable sins!*
- 2. Yet, here God shows us, crime does not pay –*

**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." <sup>4</sup> "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." (Zechariah 5:3-4 NKJ)

- 3. Not only that but the rest of the chapter shows us God deals not only with sin but the sinner –*  
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." <sup>6</sup> 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: <sup>7</sup> "Here *is* a lead disc lifted up, and this *is* a woman sitting inside the basket"; <sup>8</sup> then he said, "This *is* Wickedness!" And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> So I said to the angel who talked with me, "Where are they carrying the basket?" <sup>11</sup> 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 5:5-11 NKJ)

- 1. Notice here "Wickedness" has a face, God does not only hate and punish "sin" but also the SINNER! :6-8*
- 2. Wings of a stork (long migration path) this meant this woman in the basket was going to be carried FAR, FAR AWAY - :9*
- 3. They take it to the land of Shinar (Babylon) the place of rebellion against God - :10-11*
- 4. Ultimately the wicked will be taken to even a worse place than Shinar –*

<sup>9</sup> Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand,

<sup>10</sup> "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

<sup>11</sup> "And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

<sup>12</sup> Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (Rev 14:9-12 NKJ)