

Zechariah 5:1-11

The post-exilic Jewish community in Jerusalem rejoiced that the temple would be rebuilt but mere cleansing from past sins and their consequences was not enough. The issue of remaining sin in their midst was also crucial.

The good news of the gospel is that when we become Christians, God does not just forgive us our past sins, through justification. He is committed to deal with our present and ongoing sins, through sanctification.

Thesis

Zechariah 5:1-11 presents two connected visions, which show that where God dwells, the plague of sin must be removed.

1. Flying Scroll vv. 1-2

In the prophetic books, the picture of a scroll often appears as a message from God to the leaders or people. (**Jer 36:1-3; Ezek. 2:9-10**).

On one side of the scroll in Zechariah's night vision was a reference to the eighth commandment, against the sin of stealing, and on the other side was a reference to the ninth commandment against the sin of giving false testimony.

The flying scroll of the law shows that sin will be uncovered and discovered. It goes throughout the land, seeking out those who have sinned. God says that every sin will be found out (**Eccles. 12:14**)>

The scroll was thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide. It is the same size as the holy place within the temple.

The sin-seeking scroll, bearing God's law and reflecting the dimensions of the holy place, reminds us that what determines sin is God's revelation.

2. Divine Curse vv. 3-4

The vision of the scroll proclaims that sin will be discovered, and the angel's words confirm that sin will be judged; God's curse is sent forth (**Zech. 5:3-4**).

The scroll reveals God's active hostility toward sin and the sinner.

This is God's active judgment, visiting wrath on those found in sin.

3. A Woman in a Basket vv. 5-11

Having been discovered and judged, sin is then pictured as a woman in a basket to be removed from the land (**Zech. 5:5-8**)

This vision shows sin taken away-not in the abstract, but as it is personalized.

Zechariah 5 shows sin discovered because of God's omniscience, sin judged because of God's holiness, and sin removed by God's almighty power.

However impressive this vision may be, it does not seem to have happened so far.

What does this mean with regard to this vision's fulfillment?

First, it informs us about God's principles.

God's kingdom is incompatible with sin. God will not dwell with sin.

If we are to be God's people, then we, like him, must be radically committed to the removal of sin and the pursuit of holiness.

Secondly, this vision tells us how things will be in the end.

The removal of sin from God's world is the consistent message of the Scriptures (**Revelation 21:27**).

This means that we must all in the end, face God and deal with our sins.

How then can our sin be removed before the day of judgment?

Through faith in Jesus Christ (**Col 2:13-14**).

This pair of visions communicates a grim message, featuring curses and judgment.

All sin will be discovered, then judged, then removed with the sinner who is cast into darkness.

Where do you stand with respect to God and your sin?

Are your sins still upon you, so that you resent the thought of God staring at you?

God is there and your sins will be discovered.

If they are not taken from you by the cross of Christ, you will be judged by God's curse. You will be cast from God's presence into the realm of darkness forever.

God's holiness stands against sinners and if they die in their sins they will be lost (**John 8:24**).

There is a way of salvation, however.

Rom. 5:6, 8 "While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly...

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment."

Your sins will not be hid from God, and they will not escape judgment but if you will confess them, if you will discover them and judge yourself a sinner, turning to Christ in faith, then your sin will be removed.