

Zechariah 5:1-11

Zechariah was a prophet around 500 BC, born in the captivity of Babylon, and came back when Cyrus let the Israelites return to rebuild Jerusalem. They were discouraged because the temple was lying in ruins, so God sent Zechariah a series of encouraging visions. He sent an architect to rebuild the temple. The surrounding neighbors tried every way in the world to stop the rebuilding of the temple, but were unsuccessful because God was allowing it to be done. Chapter 5 starts with a series of visions of judgements for the gentiles, not for the Israelites.

Vs1-2: a flying roll was a flying scroll 20 cubits by 10 cubits. The dimensions are important. It's 30 x 15 feet in our measurements. It was a document with writing on it. It's the same size as a dedicated porch area for the priest's reading of God's word in Solomon's temple before it was destroyed.

Vs3: The curse goes over Palestine. This Word of God, written scroll on front and back, is a curse. It contains the Law of God that puts people to death who don't obey. The law says if you do this, you die. You cannot go to heaven by trying to obey the law. It will put you to death. One side of the scroll pertains to how man treats men. The other side of the scroll pertains to how man is to relate to God. No man has a right to use God's name in vain. Who do you affect when you steal? Your fellow man.

Vs4: People who use God's name in swearing have no concept of what they are doing. God's Word, the guidelines to live by, will be in your house, if you steal and swear with God's name, it will consume you and put you to death. This vision is a vision of judgement, and Zechariah is warning the Israelites about the curse of the law.

Vs5: The top 10, #1, of strange visions: The angel says, "check this out".

Vs6: it's an ephah that goes by, a unit of dry measurement, about the size of a bushel basket. Moreover, this is a symbol of something, of the whole earth.

Vs7: a talent is unit of measure about 100-125 pounds, so on top of this ephah is a lid that weighs 100-125 lbs. This woman is sitting in the middle of the bushel basket.

Vs8: a woman spoken of in the negative tense is false religion. A wicked false religion is in the basket, with a heavy lid holding it in.

Vs9: 2 more women come from somewhere with wings, with wind helping them get airborne. They have large wings like storks. Storks are considered an unclean bird. Everything about this vision is bad. These 2 women got the ephah and carried it away.

Vs10: where are they taking her?

Vs11: They are taking her to start a false religion without God, to set up a false religion in her own space. God is moving the false religion, mixing it with the political and economic system. Everyone will become very rich, and hate the false religion. The commercial system will destroy the religious system.