

“The Foolishness of ‘Robbing’ God”

Zechariah 5:1-4

The Sixth Vision: The Hovering Scroll

To withhold what is due God, either in heart or in life, is to be guilty of the ultimate robbery!

1. The Vision – Its Parts and Their Significance

(1) A Scroll

*“I see a flying scroll.
Its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits.”*

- **Large** - 30' X 15'
 - The exact dimensions of the Temple porch where the law was usually read
- **Flying or hovering** - To show that its threats were active, imminent
- **Unrolled**
 - Its warning and curse openly proclaimed
 - The sins identified already had been and would continue to be preached against!

(2) Written on Both Sides

“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.”

- **Significance**
 - To connect it with the two Tables of the Law
 - To show the sins identified here were closely connected
- **Content**
 - The one side denounced stealing or theft (8th Commandment)
 - The other side denounced swearing falsely by God’s name (3rd Commandment)

2. The Vision – Its Meaning

(1) An Inescapable Curse!

“This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land.”

- It “goes out over the face of the whole land” (finding out all of the guilty)
- “It shall enter the house” (of the guilty)
- “it shall remain in his house” (affecting his whole family)
- “it shall...consume it, both timber and stones”

(2) A Curse for Sin!

“it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by my name.”

- **Two closely related sins: Stealing and swearing falsely by God’s name**
 - The one sin *clearly demonstrable*, the other *not* so clearly demonstrable.
 - But guilt in the one sin clearly implicated a person with guilt in the other!

-‘Robbing’ God → False worship

A sin which shapes the whole life and exposes worship as false.
Withholding what it due to God, either in heart or life.

- Sin which the prophets of that day had preached against!

- **Haggai 1** - Those who were neglecting the building of God’s house to build their own, and thus were robbing God.
- **Malachi 3:8ff** – Those who, 80 years later, were *still* neglecting the house of God!

(3) A Sure Judgment!

“it (the curse) shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones.”

- **1- Temporal** – Their earthly houses would be destroyed!
- **2- Eternal** – Their life and souls would be consumed in judgment! cf. Lk. 6:46-49

3. The Vision – To What and to Whom does it Point Us?

(1) Man’s sin and rebellion – the ultimate ‘robbery!’

- All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Rom. 3:23
- Man in his sin persists in building his ‘house’ upon the sand, and great is the destruction that finally comes! Lk. 6:46-49

(2) Those who have an empty profession of faith – the ultimate hypocrisy!

- cf. Luke 8:14 The Parable of the Sower: the seed sown among the thorns
“choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.”
- cf. Matt. 6:19-24 Busied with laying up treasures on earth.
 - Professing to worship God, but showing no real interest in the priorities of the kingdom.

(3) Jesus Christ – the *only* Man who never robbed God!

- Jesus gave all to the Father that was due Him!
- Jesus gave everything to build the true and ultimate house of God!