
LESSON 5

You are freed from wickedness (Zech 5)

It is frightening to live in a society descending into lawlessness; where the rule of law has broken down, where thieves abound, where wickedness may leave us shocked, angry but utterly helpless. What would you do if you are trapped in such a society? In an age of high mobility, the able will seriously think about migration. But what if there is no where to run because the whole earth is filled with wickedness?

In such times, people will cry out for justice. When times are good and prosperity abound, people may perceive judgment as oppressive legalism. But, in a world suffocating under wickedness, judgment is the fresh air we gasp for.

UNDERSTANDING

1. The vision of the flying scroll is about God banishing sin from the land. Read 5:3-4. What do the two sides of the flying scroll symbolize?
2. Refer to Eze 2:9 – 3:7 for further understanding of the scroll.
 - a. What does the scroll contain (Eze 2:10)?
 - b. What was Ezekiel told to do after he ate the scroll (Eze 3:4)?
 - c. Who were the recipients of Ezekiel's message (Eze 3:4)?
3. The scroll contains God's word which when spoken forth, bring either blessings to the obedient or curses to the disobedient. What did the thieves and those who swear falsely in God's name violate which resulted in curses coming upon them?
4. What does the woman in the basket symbolize (Zech 5:6-8)?

5. A lead cover was put over the basket (5:8) and the basket carried to the land of Babylon and set there. What does all these symbols tell us how wickedness will be dealt with in the last days?
6. Babylon is a symbol of idolatry, immorality, greed, blasphemies and all forms of opposition and mockery against God's holiness and might. The origin of all these is none other than Satan and all his underlings.
 - a. Read Rev 17:3 -7. What are some descriptions of the woman carried by the beast?
 - b. Read Rev 18:1-4. What will happen to Babylon in the last days, and what must we do?

REFLECTING

Remember the chiasmic pattern of the 8 visions. Vision 6 parallels Vision 3; and Vision 7 parallel Vision 2. Vision 6 announces the removal of sin from the people of God (5:1-4). Vision 3 (2:1-13) describes the glorious new Jerusalem. Vision 7, the vision of the woman in a basket (5:5-11) is parallel to Vision 2, the vision of the four horns (1:18-21). The power of wickedness is removed just as the four horns, the symbol of oppressive powers were broken.

7. From the above study, summarise what God will do to sin and wickedness in the last days.
8. *What can you learn about God's character that gives you hope and courage in the face of wicked oppression?*

APPLYING

Faith in God is about knowing His character and holding on to His promises in peace no matter what happens.

9. Read 2 Thess 2:9-17.
 - a. Notice how verses 9-12 confirm our study of Zech 5 and Rev 17 & 18 about the last days.
 - b. Verses 13-17 contain Paul's exhortation to the believers. How do the people of faith live in faith in times like this?

LOOKING FORWARD

Next week, we will look at the last of the 8 visions and the culmination of all these visions in the prophecy of Jesus, the BRANCH, the high priest who will usher in true peace on earth.