

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
JUDGMENT BEFORE CHRIST'S RETURN-PART 1
ZECHARIAH 5:1-4

Introduction

Zechariah's **first five visions** were encouraging ones of hope for the future of the Messianic kingdom.

The **next three visions** concern the judgments that will come upon Israel and the world **before** Jesus returns in glory. Sin must be judged and removed before the Lord of hosts, Who is also described as "...*the Lord of all the earth*" (chapter 6:5), returns.

A kingdom of God cannot exist without **justice**. The Scripture reveals that the Lord will take up His reign and rule with a rod (or scepter) of iron.

Revelation 12 and Isaiah 9 both allude to this: *Revelation 12:5—"And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne"*

Isaiah 9:7—"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this"

**I. THE FLYING ROLL AND THE SINS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.
(Zechariah 5:1-4)**

The first four verses of Zechariah make it clear that ultimately, every sin will be revealed before the un-bribable heavenly Judge.

Zechariah lifted up his eyes and saw (verse 1).

We must also dare to lift up our eyes and see sin as God sees it.

We live in a world where it seems that every sin and every perversity is tolerated, or even worse, is made light of.

Yet, by and large, the Word of God is no longer tolerated.

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However, man will not be asked for his opinion, about the time in which he lived, or about the prevailing trend of that day when he stands before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Instead, he will be asked whether or not he was obedient to God's Word. It is the only source that applies, which is why Zechariah saw a roll (or scroll) that was so large that no human hand could hold it. This roll (or scroll) symbolizes God's infallible Word (verse 2).

Since twenty cubits equal about 34 feet, ten cubits would equal 17ft. It is certainly no coincidence that the halls of Solomon's Temple, where the Law was read aloud, had the very same measurements as the scroll Zechariah saw.

1 Kings 6:3—"And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house."

The scroll was not rolled up, but was spread out so that it covered the porch of the Temple.

When God's judgments are poured out over the world, the Word of God will be unrolled, or opened, and will be the only measure by which the Lord will judge. Everything, including the judgments contained in the Holy Scriptures, will be fulfilled.

Let's recall how the Great Tribulation judgments begin: The Lamb of God will break the seven seals of the book (***Revelation 5:5-7 and 6:1—onward***), unleashing severe judgments upon this earth.

The **seven seal judgments** followed by the **seven trumpet judgments** followed by the **seven vial or bowl judgments**.

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Then in the end, we read in *Revelation 20:12*—*"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works"*

Zechariah saw a flying scroll that united both heaven and earth; it was God's heavenly Word of judgment upon the earth. The curse (or judgment) of the flying scroll covered the entire land; nobody could escape it (*verse 3*). This judgment during the Great Tribulation will affect the land of Israel, but it will also come upon all the nations of the world.

The Word of God was sent to show the way of salvation and forgiveness of all who believe the message of it. However, for those who continually reject it and do not repent, it will become a curse and will lead to judgment—as 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 12 puts it: *"...with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved...That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in un-righteousness"*

Those who do not believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be judged according to it: *Romans 2:16*—*"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."*

Two terms that can be used to sum up the Ten Commandments written on the two stone tablets are used here: *"...every one that stealeth"* and *"...every one that swareth"* (*Zechariah 5:3*).

Taking advantage of our neighbors is classified as theft. But stealing God's glory, pursuing idols, or making a god of this world and all its offers are also considered theft. Even the selfish use of things God has given us, such as talents and material gifts, will be judged.

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Lies that are taken so lightly today will also be judged relentlessly: *Revelation 21:8*—*"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death..."*

Revelation 21:27—*"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life"*

During the revelation of the Antichrist, who personifies lies, many people, including the Jews, will believe the lies, forsake God and deny Him!

2 Thessalonians 2:9—*"...Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders."*

People have seemingly gotten away with sinning for a long time, but soon, time will run out. The day will come when all that is hidden will be revealed and judged by God. Those who do not believe in Jesus Christ will be condemned according to God's law:

1 Timothy 1:9-10—*"...Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine."*

No one will be spared from God's divine judgment, particularly during the Great Tribulation, but also, even now. It will arrive like an uninvited guest and will remain in the night of great distress. It will consume *"...the timber thereof and the stones thereof"* (*verse 4*).

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The Old Testament instructed that a house contaminated by leprosy should be destroyed in exactly the same way:

Leviticus 14:45—"And he shall break down the house, the stones of it, and the timber thereof, and all the mortar of the house; and he shall carry them forth out of the city into an unclean place"

The Church is considered a house or temple, as is the individual believer. God will destroy anyone who defiles the Temple.

(1st Corinthians 3:16-17).

That is why *Ephesians 4:28* says: *"Let him that stole steal no more,"* and *verse 25* says, *"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour."*

This is even more necessary because the time has come when judgment will begin at the house of God (*1st Peter 4:17*).

Surrendering our lives to Christ is the only way to avoid God's judgment. The forgiveness of sins and removal of the curse is only found in Christ. The balance of sin is immediately brought down to zero: *Hebrews 8:12—"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."*