

Zechariah 09 – Darkness of Sin – Scroll of Life

Zechariah - 5:1-4
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Sixth Vision – Warning of Sin

- The fifth vision was pinnacle of Israel entering God's New Covenant in Millennial Kingdom – *Brightness*
- This vision depicts reality of life in the flesh and its failures as measured by the Ten Words – *Darkness*
- This vision warns of the failure of the flesh to walk in faith relying on God by relying on the flesh – *Failure*

Seeing But Not Understanding

- Zechariah clearly sees the vision
 - Jews clearly *knew* the Law and God's Word
 - Their *exegetical* interpretation clouded the truth
 - Law illustrated the impossibility of self righteousness
 - But Jews tried to gain righteousness by works (Pride)
 - They did not seek God – God came to them
 - This would affect their descendants – Even today

The *Flying Scroll* Unfurled

- Zechariah did not see a rolled document
 - He saw writing on both sides
 - He could measure its dimensions
- Even the *flying* not fully understood in English



Look at the *Flying* (ףי)ׁ

- The exact meaning must depend on the context and may refer to actual flight which amazed the Hebrews
- This instance refers mainly to the quick movement of the document - There is no waiting for justice (Isa 2:1-3)
 - Judgment comes when God determines
 - Though it may seem slow to man, judgments will occur

There is an Aspect of Darkness

- Hebrew word (ףי)ׁ also conveys the aura of darkness
 - Reminiscent of the sign of Darkness to the Egyptians (Ex 10:21-23)
 - The whole earth was in spiritual darkness (Is 9:1-2)
 - Day of the Lord comes with darkness (Joel 2:1-2, 30-31)
- But in the midst of *darkness* there is always the Light of God guiding those to Him - Word of God

Is it a Roll? (מגלה)

- Is has the capacity of being rolled, a scroll
- It is not furled when Zechariah sees the document
 - He can read the writing on both sides (Usual custom)
(Ex. 25-10)
- Dimensions very meaningful
 - 10 - Law (Man's (6) Judgment (4))
 - 20 - Redemption or Expectancy (Coming to pass)

Example of Eisegesis

- Correct Hebrew word
- Wrong understanding
- Readers not understand
- Reading into Scripture
- Ignores truth for dreams



Ten Words Basis for *All Relationships*

- God required His people, the Jews, to live according to the Ten Words as a living testament to the world (De. 32:1-10)
- The Ten Words hung over the land and as the people violated the Law the darkness would covered Judah (Is. 55:10,11)
- Judgment would not only affect them but their family to the third and fourth generations (Ex. 20:3)

What Does Curse (הָלַךְ) Mean?

- The curse is actually the negative consequences for breaking a contractual covenant (Law)
 - The Ten Words were the contractual agreement between God and man with consequences for sins (Morality)
 - Violation of the Law - Sins
 - Law summarized relationships vertically and laterally
 - Relationship to God De 22:31-35
 - Relationship to Man De 22:39-40

One Side of Law - Man

- The Second half of the Ten Words deals man's sinfulness with theft which is based on Covetousness De 4:1-6
 - Murder, Stealing, Adultery, Lying spring from coveting
 - Demonstrates desiring the elements of the world rather than the spiritual aspects of grace
 - This mindset makes one an enemy of God who has been rejected in favor of the fleeting pleasures of sin De 11:15-16

Other Side of Law - God

- The First half of the Ten Words details God's holiness that requires justice because of man's sinfulness
 - Men's oaths invoking God's name is *not* an indication of righteousness but of blasphemy De 20:7, 14-19; 12; Mt 5:33-37; Jk 5:12
 - Using God's name in vain to elevate one's self
 - This is making God a slave to man to do his will rather than man submitting to God to do His will

Law Designed to Cleanse

- The usual expectation is that violations of the Law result in *punishment* (Lost Viewpoint)
 - Sin results in *consequences* which God allows to occur (Ro 1:18-32)
 - These consequences give the sinner opportunity to understand the heinousness of sin promotes repentance
 - This is the *cleansing* that Zechariah references - Actually demonstrates God's long suffering and mercy

Affects Not Just the Sinner

- Sins, all violations of the Law, have not only an impact on the sinner but also on those associated with him
 - The *house* of the sinner can include:
 - Immediate family
 - Extended family
 - Community
 - Nation

Ignoring Sins Promotes Wickedness

- When sins go unpunished the wicked rise through all levels of life
 - Enforcing Law teaches consequences of sin - State duty (Lk 26:17)
 - Teaching truth promotes morality of God (Jy 29:19)
- When Jews hide their sins they pervert God's message by teaching evil for good (Ro 2:12-19)

False Jews Justify Their Sins

- The brightness of the coming Millennial Kingdom would come out of the darkness of the current Jews love of sin and self-righteousness
- For God's Law they would teach their Talmud and Mishna which would justify their sinfulness at the expense of God's righteousness all the while claiming to speak in His name (Isa. 2:17-21)

Prophetic Testimony to Truth

- The role of the Old Testament prophet was to point to God's truth in the midst of man's lies (Is. 29:18)
 - All appeals to right belief and behavior based on the Ten Words alone
 - When these are rejected the people (Person, Family, Community and Nation) perish
 - Fundamental message of Old Testament to all nations

Following the Ten Words

- The Ten Words are the unchanging plumb line that defines man's sin and God's holiness
- The Ten Words to teach people about salvation via the blood of Christ - Message of Faith (Is. 19:7-10)
- Fear of the Lord (Beginning of Wisdom) promotes life by truthfully showing the results of sin (Isa. 28:28; Ps. 111:10; Ps. 146:27)

Mosaic Law Not for Christians

- Christians are not bound by the Mosaic Law of works
(Ac 15:12, 19-21)
 - Church is not a theocracy; therefore, not tied to a land
 - Church has not replaced the Jews
 - Christ fulfilled the penalty of the Law (Ga 3:13)
- Those who seek to be bound by the Mosaic Law put Christ to an open shame and reject His death - Works
(Ro 7:21, 5:4)

Ten Words Apply Forever

- Christ said that the Law (Ten Words) would never pass away for they are the enduring righteousness of God
(Lk 16:17)
- The Ten Words become the measure (plumb line) by which we understand our maturation in Christ
(Ro 8:2, 1Co 9:21)
- This naturally flows from our new nature via saving faith in Christ (Ro 7:4-6, 2Co 5:17, Ga 3:20)

It is the Same Today

- The Ten Words hang over the lands today
 - The Lost receive the consequences of their sins to live in the *darkness* of their deeds: violence and hopelessness
 - The Saved live in the *light* of their salvation in these same lands just as in Exodus
 - Saved today are the *lights* in the *darkness* as the Jews were
(Mt 5:14-16)
 - When we sin we walk in sin's darkness, how great is that darkness - True Christians do repent (Mt 6:21-23; 1Jo 1:5-10; 2:44)