

BOOK OF ZECHARIAH
THE EPHAH AND THE SINS OF THE NATIONS
THE WRATH OF GOD
ZECHARIAH 5:5-11

Introduction

We've seen how **ZECHARIAH'S** first five **VISIONS** were encouraging ones of **HOPE** for the **FUTURE** in the **MESSIANIC KINGDOM**.

The **VISION** last week and the one this week and next concern the **JUDGMENTS** that will come upon **ISRAEL** as well as the rest of the world before **MESSIAH** returns in **GLORY** to **REIGN** in **JERUSALEM!**

Last week we saw **THE VISION OF THE FLYING ROLL (SCROLL)**.
(Zech.5:1-4) 10 X 20 speaking to the TESTIMONY OF REDEMPTION.

This **TESTIMONY** of **REDEMPTION**, brought a **CURSE** after its **REJECTION**, becoming **JUDGMENT UNTO DESTRUCTION** for those who **REJECTED IT!** **REJECTING CHRIST'S TESTIMONY** of **REDEMPTION** seals one's **CONDEMNATION**.

Next we see in *(Zechariah 5:5-11)*...

THE EPHAH AND THE SINS OF THE NATIONS. *(Vs 5-6)*

GOD'S FUTURE JUDGMENT will not only come upon **ISRAEL**, but upon the entire **END-TIME ANTI-GOD BABYLONIAN SYSTEM!**

Based on *Unger's Bible Dictionary*, an **EPHAH** is "a measure of Egyptian origin and in common use among the Hebrews. It contains 10 omers." It is interesting that it can also mean in Hebrew 'gloom' or 'darkness.'

It was the largest **MEASUREMENT** for dry goods such as grain.**(TRADE)** Understand also that **MEASURING** in **SCRIPTURE** is related to **JUDGMENT.** *(e.g. Remember the writing on the wall in Daniel 5:27 revealed that King Belshazzar of BABYLON had been "WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES, AND BEEN FOUND WANTING.")*

Let me emphasize again that, though this is a **PROPHECY** directed first to the **JEWISH** people, it also includes events that concern "all the earth".

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In vs 7-8, the ANGEL speaking to **ZECHARIAH** explains that a woman called "**WICKEDNESS**" sat in the **MIDDLE** of this **EPHAH**.

Now, let's understand that when the **JEWS** returned to **ISRAEL** from **BABYLONIAN exile**, they brought with them **BABYLON'S heathen influence especially with regard to the spirit of TRADE**, which had **NO MORAL BASIS. PROFIT** was more important than **MORALS**.

(Does that sound familiar? Presently, we can see the **WICKED BABYLONIAN INFLUENCE** all over the world!) **BABYLON'S WICKED INFLUENCE** is right in the middle of all **WICKEDNESS!**
1 Timothy 6:10 – "For the love of money is the root of all evil..."

Let's consider some examples from **SCRIPTURE:**

(e.g. Early in CHRIST'S MINISTRY in John 2:13-17 and late in HIS MINISTRY in Matthew 21:12-13 we find him driving money-changers and merchants out of the TEMPLE for turning his FATHER'S HOUSE OF PRAYER into a DEN OF THIEVES! PROFIT > MORALS!)

(e.g. Under Roman rule, PUBLICANS exacted great amounts from fellow JEWS for personal profit which made them a by-word!)

(e.g. JUDAS ISCARIOT betraying CHRIST for 30 pieces of silver!)

Is that not what we see right now in our own dear nation and in the world especially in **high places of authority?** When our **NATION** was **FOUNDED** that largely was not the case! But today, we see the continuing **CORRUPT PEDDLING OF INFLUENCE** for **PROFIT** without regard to **MORALS!** **PROFIT** has become more important than **MORALS!**

GOD was not happy with that attitude then and he's not happy with it now, which is why these words were written in...*verse 6: "This is their resemblance through all the earth"* and *verse 8: "This is wickedness..."*

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Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States once very fittingly said, *"It is not inflation that is destroying the nations, but godlessness, which is the cause of inflation."*

His words highlight the idea that **MORAL and SPIRITUAL VALUES** play a crucial role in the **STABILITY and PROSPERITY** of a **NATION**. Coolidge believed that a **LACK OF FAITH and ETHICAL PRINCIPLES** could lead to **SOCIETAL and ECONOMIC challenges**. **A NATION'S well-being extends beyond mere economic indicators and encompasses deeper CULTURAL and SPIRITUAL dimensions**.

Since the time of **ISRAEL'S** return from **BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY** a large number of **SECULAR JEWS** have been involved in **WORLD TRADE** and even today there are many **GENTILES** unhappy with the **WAY** many **JEWS** do business, which adds fuel to the fire of **ANTISEMITISM** in the world! (The influence of **BABYLON!**) But corrupt **BUSINESSMEN** can be found all over the **WORLD!**

We can easily see and know that **GODLESSNESS** in **TRADE** and **ECONOMICS** has the **WORLDWIDE POLITICAL** scene and many others in its clutches today and contributes in great measure to the **CORRUPTION** of the **NATIONS**. It will reach its climax in **END-TIME BABYLON**, but understand that the **BABYLONIAN** influence has been around since the **ANTI-GOD REBELLION** of **BABEL** which is recorded in *Genesis 11*.

This manifestation of **WICKEDNESS** was contained in the **EPHAH** and sealed with a **TALENT OF LEAD**. **LEAD** is a heavy substance. It appears to have been cast in the **EPHAH** to hinder the escape of the woman from the place of her confinement. In old times, **LEAD** was used for a **PLUMB LINE**, because the weight of it would not easily sway in the wind; therefore, it gave precise **JUDGMENT** of location. Some believe the **LEAD** here signifies the total **JUDGMENT** of **WICKEDNESS**.

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In *verse 9*, **ZECHARIAH** sees two unidentified women coming out, carrying the burden of this wickedness having the wind in their wings which were like the wings of a stork (*vs 9*). **(The two women possibly representing both COMMERCIAL BABYLON and RELIGIOUS BABYLON—possibly, but we are not told!)**

The natural question that comes to mind is found in *verse 10* and answered in *verse 11*.

The **LAND OF SHINAR** is the land of **BABYLON** which was the place of her original **REBELLION** against the **GOD OF HEAVEN!** (*Genesis 11:2*) **BABYLON** is the embodiment of ultimate **EVIL!** The very name **BABYLON** means *"gate of God"* as opposed to **CHRIST WHO IS THE WAY, TRUTH, and LIGHT and the only GATE (or WAY) TO GOD!** **BABYLON** represents the entire **CORRUPT WORLD SYSTEM**, including the **RELIGIOUS WORLD SYSTEM** that stands against the **ONE TRUE GOD!**

Throughout the **SCRIPTURES** **BABYLON** represents **CONFUSION IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS, IDOLATRY, and MORAL UNCLEANNES!** **In BABYLON culminates all that DEFIES GOD and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS on earth. GODLESSNESS of every sort, including that of ISRAEL finds its place there!**

The **POWERS OF UNCLEANNES** will promote the **SINS** of the **END-TIME BABYLON**. **END-TIME BABYLON** will become the earthly site of the revelation of the godless **ECONOMY**. However, the **BELIEVING REMNANT** of **ISRAEL** as well as the other **TRIBULATION SAINTS** should play no part in this **UNGODLY BABYLON!**

In Revelation 17 (RELIGIOUS BABYLON) and 18 (COMMERCIAL BABYLON) refer to this END-TIME BABYLON as a "woman" or a "harlot."

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Revelation 17:1-5 and *18:1-6* explain that the **JEWS** are to flee from **BABYLON**. The merchants of the earth will have become rich through the opulence of this **BABYLON**. The entire **BABYLONIAN SYSTEM** will be destroyed in one hour (*Revelation 18:10, 17-18*).

Scripture reveals that the **ANTICHRIST** will have such great power over the **END-TIME ECONOMY** that nobody will be able to buy or sell without him (*Revelation 13:16-17*). The **ECONOMY** will be used by the **ANTICHRIST** as **TOOL** of **CONTROL!**

Conclusion

I want to close this section by looking at some other related Scripture:
Look at PAUL'S admonition in *Romans 2:1-11*.

Look at PAUL'S admonition in *1 Timothy 6:6-12 and 17-19*.

Look at JAMES' admonition in *James 5:1-3*

Next we will see the *APOCALYPTIC END-TIME JUDGMENT (6:1-8)*