

"The 8 Night Visions"

Part 8

Zechariah 1:7-6:15

Introduction: In our study today we have come to the 6th night vision given to Zechariah. The first 5 visions were visions of encouragement but this vision that we shall look at today will be one of urgent warning. This vision is going to be a needed reminder of the holiness of God. Listen to the words of Charles L. Feinberg on what we shall see in this vision.

"Zechariah knows nothing (nor does any other writer of the Scriptures) of the mawkish theology which is so much in vogue in our day that considers God as the God of love, overlooking every failure, shortcoming, and defection in man. True, twice over John the Apostle in his First Epistle designates God as, the God of love, but he sounds forth the warning of impending judgment on all ungodliness in all the writings that the Spirit of God directed him to pen. If God can overlook sin lightly because of His love, then what need is there for Isaiah to a state of him that He is 'the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy' (Isa. 57:15)? What object is accomplished in Habakkuk's great declaration: 'Thou that art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and that canst not look on perverseness' (Hab. 1:13)? Why should the majestic Epistle to the Hebrews inject such notes as these 'it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God' or 'our God is a consuming fire' (Hebrews 10:31; 12:29)? Away with half-baked theology! Let us magnify the love of God and at the same time maintain His irreproachable holiness."

We are living in a day when the church has become so soft concerning sin. Many professing believers today live in sin right out in the open and then they talk about praying for other people like they are walking right close by the side of the Lord. Let me just say that if you are living in sin then your prayers are by no means reaching the Throne of Grace.

Psalm 66:18

¹⁸ *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

It is rare in many churches today that you would ever hear a message on sin, or on the wrath of God, or on the consequences of sin, nor would you be able to hear a message on the holiness of God. These topics are not popular because they make people uncomfortable. People today like their sin and they do not want to hear a message that brings any kind of conviction. It reminds me of the letter to Laodicean church.

Revelation 3:14-20

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

In the 6th vision the Jews are going to be reminded of the holiness of God.

The Vision of the Flying Scroll

Zechariah 5:1-4

➤ The Vision

Notice Zechariah 5:1

This scroll is the Word of God as we shall see in a moment, and it is opened up and it is very large so that it can be seen by all.

Now let us understand that when God revealed Himself to man, He did so in three ways.

1. Through natural revelation.

Romans 1:18-20

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

2. Through His Son

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² *Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

³ *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

3. Through His Word

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

The Bible is "God breathed" meaning it is His Word. This Book is the means to know God and therefore a daily diet is essential.

Getting back to the vision, the flying scroll is the Word of God and the message for the people is one of judgment.

Notice Zechariah 5:2

Zechariah sees a flying scroll that is 20 cubits by 10 cubits. This scroll is opened up as it flies, and it is about 30'x15'. It is so large because God wants everyone to see what is written on this scroll. The message on both sides of this scroll is a message of judgment and God is always faithful to warn the people before a judgment falls.

2 Peter 2:5

⁵ *And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;*

Jude 1:14-15

¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

God sent out many warnings before the flood. He has warned the world of the coming Tribulation through faithful preachers who have taught the Word of God. Here in Zechariah's day He makes the scroll so large that it cannot be missed. Why does it matter?

Ezekiel 33:10-11

¹⁰ Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?

¹¹ Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

➤ **The Interpretation**

Notice Zechariah 5:3

Here we see that there will be a curse that will cover the land for 2 sins that are names. The sin of stealing and the sin of swearing. Now many believe these two sins represent the entire Law and namely the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 20:

³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁷ Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

¹² Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

¹³ Thou shalt not kill.

¹⁴ Thou shalt not commit adultery.

¹⁵ **Thou shalt not steal.**

¹⁶ Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

¹⁷ Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

These are the Ten Commandments. Four are vertical meaning they deal with man's relationship to God and four are horizontal meaning they deal with man's relationship with his fellowman. On the scroll there is one from each section and for that reason many believe these two on the scroll represent the entire Law.

James 2:10

¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

Notice Zechariah 5:3 again.

The word CURSE should have been a reminder to the Jews of what God said through Moses.

Deuteronomy 28:1-3, 15-16

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

² *And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

³ *Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

¹⁵ *But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

¹⁶ *Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.*

While the two sins listed represent the entire Law, they were guilty of **stealing** and **swearing**. Most likely some of them had sworn an oath to give to the building project and they had made the choice to withhold the money and use it for their own personal desires.

Malachi 3:6-9

⁶ *For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

⁷ *Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?*

⁸ *Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.*

⁹ *Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

Now while this has an application to Zechariah's day it will find the ultimate fulfillment in the Great Tribulation.

Notice Zechariah 5:3 again.

Those who are guilty will be cut off. This means they will die. In the Tribulation Israel will be purged and made pure before the Kingdom.

Zechariah 13:8-9

⁸ *And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*

⁹ *And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.*

Notice Zechariah 5:4

There will be no way to escape from the judgment of God.

Application:

I want to make 2 applications here. One to the saved and one to the unsaved.

1. Saved

If you are saved and you are living in sin, you need to know that God will chastise you and it can be very costly.

Numbers 32:23

²³ *But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*

Hebrews 12:6-10

⁶ *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

⁷ *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

⁸ *But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

⁹ *Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

¹⁰ *For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.*

2. Unsaved

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

Romans 2:11, 16

¹¹ *For there is no respect of persons with God.*

¹⁶ *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

Conclusion:

There is only one Way of escape and that is Jesus Christ.