

VISION #7 – GOD’S PLAN FOR THE NATIONS

--ZECHARIAH 5:5-11--

INTRODUCTION:

This seventh night vision reveals two truths about God’s plan for the nations. First, it demonstrates that God sovereignly constrains evil, even as wickedness continues to grow throughout the world. Second, the vision revealed that God is sovereignly in control and has set the course for this wicked world system. Because its destruction has been predetermined by God, we as God’s people should not be anxious about what we see happening in our world but rejoice in hope that we have a future of infinite blessing in the presence of our Savior and Lord.

I. GOD’S SOVEREIGN CONSTRAINT OF EVIL (Zechariah 5:5-8)

- a. This seventh vision parallels the second vision in that both speak of the judgment of the _____.
- b. Zechariah did as the angel told him, but he was not able to understand what it was that he was _____, so he asked the angel, “*What is it?*” (Zechariah 5:6a, NASB95)
- c. Having identified the _____, the angel spoke again to explain the significance of what the prophet was seeing.
- d. This self-centered materialism had taken over the _____ of the exiles and stayed with them even when they returned to Judah. (Colossians 3:5)
- e. Even the New Testament warns against the persistent temptation of _____.
- f. This sovereign constraint of the Lord over evil continued as Zechariah observed the _____ on the basket being lifted.
- g. The interpreting angel’s action against the woman demonstrates for us the power of God’s _____ against the evil the woman represented.
- h. In the future God will judge _____ completely and with finality. (1st John 4:4)

II. GOD’S SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER EVIL (Zechariah 5:9-11)

- a. Zechariah writes, “*Then I lifted up my eyes and looked...*” (Zechariah 5:9a, NASB95) indicating not a new vision but a new _____ of this vision coming into view.
- b. As already mentioned, Zechariah saw that these _____ women were coming out.
- c. As the prophet looked on he writes, “*...and they lifted up the _____ between the earth and the heavens.*” (Zechariah 5:9c, NASB95) (1st Chronicles 21:16; Ezekiel 8:3; 10:18-22; 43:1-3)
- d. As Zechariah observed the two demonic creatures moving away with the _____ he inquired where they were taking the basket and the harlot.
- e. “To build a _____ for her” describes the building of a pagan temple, which is fitting since the woman in the basket represents false religion.

CONCLUSION:

Throughout this vision we see God’s sovereign constraint and control over the wickedness symbolized by the basket and the woman inside. We see God’s constraint as He limits the influence of wickedness so that it reaches its peak at just the right time. We see God’s control as He allows its influence to expand but not to such an extent that it can prevail against His church. Again, we cannot overlook Zechariah’s use of the word house. The word house not only indicates that the temple of false religion would arise but also contrasts Zechariah’s emphasis that God’s house would be built and prevail. Just as the previous vision revealed that God’s wrath would destroy the houses of the unrepentant, so this vision reveals that the final house of false religion will also be destroyed. Only the glorious house of God in the Messiah’s millennial kingdom will remain.

What do we take home with us that we can apply to our lives from this passage? First, without doubt the influence of wickedness is growing in this world. As we live for Christ in the midst of this darkness we must remember as our Scripture Reading stated, “*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers,*

against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12, NASB95) In other words, our struggle is a spiritual struggle as we seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the flesh and blood of this world. Satan’s spiritual forces are going to do everything they can to keep us from sharing this good news. We must be ready and fully clothed in the armor of God. Just as Zechariah was encouraging the Israelites as they rebuilt the temple of God, let me encourage you to share the good news as we build the house of God in this age.