Zechariah 5:5-11

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

Wyn Laidig

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***Zechariah 5:5–11*** (ESV)  
**5** Then the angel who talked with me came forward and said to me, “Lift your eyes and see what this is that is going out.” **6** And I said, “What is it?” He said, “This is the basket that is going out.” And he said, “This is their iniquity in all the land.” **7** And behold, the leaden cover was lifted, and there was a woman sitting in the basket! **8** And he said, “This is Wickedness.” And he thrust her back into the basket, and thrust down the leaden weight on its opening. **9** Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming forward! The wind was in their wings. They had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven. **10** Then I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they taking the basket?” **11** He said to me, “To the land of Shinar, to build a house for it. And when this is prepared, they will set the basket down there on its base.”

1. The last section of Chapter 5 presents the SEVENTH vision of Zechariah. Review again the main points of the previous visions:  
   a) Introduction, Zech 1:1-6  
   b) First Vision, “Man & horses in the myrtle trees”: Zech 1:7-17   
   c) Second Vision, “Four horns and craftsmen”: Zech 1:18-21 .   
   d) Third Vision & Oracle, “ Man with measuring line”: Zech 2  
   e) Fourth Vision, “Satan accuses the High Priest”: Zech 3   
   f) Fifth Vision, “Golden Lampstand & Olive Trees”: Zech 4  
   g) Sixth Vision, “Flying Scroll”: Zech 5:1-4
2. In Zech 5:6 Zechariah sees a “basket” going out (going away). The Hebrew word translated as “basket” is **ehpah**. What is an **ephah**?
3. In Zech 5:6, the ephah is said to be “**their** **iniquity** in all the land”. Some versions translate this phrase as “**their eye**” or “**their appearance**”. Do a little research and see if you can find out why there are these different ways to translated this phrase.
4. If it is to be translated as “their eye”, what might that refer to? Compare the context of the phrase “in all the land/earth” is used is Zech 1:10-11 and Zech 4:10.
5. Regardless of whether the ephah represents the “evil eye” of Satan or the sins of the people, we now see that it is symbolized by a woman. What title or name is the woman given?
6. Compare this woman with the woman of Revelation 17-19. See Rev 17:3-6, Rev 18:2-5, and Rev 19:1-2. What did the woman of represent?
7. Considering the possible connection between the woman in the ephah and the woman riding the beast of Rev 17, look at Rev 17:18. How does that fit with the “their eye / iniquity in all the land”.
8. Why do you think the ephah cover was made of lead?
9. Next we see two woman come to carry the ephah away. Zech 5:8 says “the wind was in their wings”. Compare Ps 104:3 and 2 Sam 22:11What is the Hebrew word for “wind” and what else does that word mean?
10. Wings = Hebrew **kanaf** which also symbolizes the healing and protection of YHWH. Look at Ps 17:1, Ps 57:1, Mal 4:2, and Ex 25:20. What did the wings of the cherubs cover in the tabernacle?
11. Based on the above references, could there perhaps be further symbolism in the two woman with wind in their wings? If so, what?
12. What do the “wings of a stork” refer to?
13. They are taking the ephah with the woman to Shinar. Where is Shinar and what does it represent? See Gen 10:10. Why would the woman be taken there?
14. Why was Babylon symbolically used to describe a place a evil? See Gen 11:4.
15. What does it mean that a “house” would be built for the Woman of Wickedness?
16. Summarize this vision and its meaning.
17. How would this vision have been received by the people of Zechariah’s time? How would it have encouraged them to respond?
18. How does this prophetic vision apply to us today?