Zechariah 5:1-4

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

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October 2015

***Zechariah 5:1–4*** (ESV)  
**1** Again I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a flying scroll! **2** And he said to me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits, and its width ten cubits.” **3** Then he said to me, “This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole land. For everyone who steals shall be cleaned out according to what is on one side, and everyone who swears falsely shall be cleaned out according to what is on the other side. **4** I will send it out, declares the YHWH of Hosts, and it shall enter the house of the thief, and the house of him who swears falsely by my name. And it shall remain in his house and consume it, both timber and stones.”

1. Chapter five presents the SIXTH and SEVENTH visions 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
2. What does the scroll seem to symbolize? Consider also Ezek 2:8 - 3:3.
3. How would you define a curse according to Scripture? Consider Deut 28.
4. Why would this scroll be a curse? Look at Deut 27:26, Deut 29:24-28, Joshua 8:34, Jer. 29:18-19, and Daniel 9:11.
5. It is also interesting that Paul in the Apostolic Scriptures refers to the “curse of the law”, or literally “the curse of the Torah” in passages such as Galatians 3:10-13. Some Christians have mistakenly concluded that the “curse” is the “Law”. However, what Paul is teaching is no different from what the Torah itself (the Law) teaches. What really is “the curse of the Torah”?
6. What are the dimensions of the scroll, and do these numbers have any symbolic meaning? As food for thought look at 1 Kings 6:3 and 2 Chron 4:2.
7. Is there any significance or symbolism in the fact that the scroll was “flying”?
8. What are the two sins mentioned that will cause the curse to come upon them? Which of the ten commandments (ten words) do these refer to?
9. Remembering that this prophetic vision is full of symbolism, what broader sins might these two specifically mentioned sins represent?
10. In Zech 5:3, the ESV says “everyone who steals shall be **cleaned out**… and everyone who swears falsely shall be **cleaned out**”. The Hebrew word translated as “cleaned out” is really **nakah** which literally means “to go unpunished, consider innocent, banished, destitute”. Eugene Merril in his commentary on Zechariah translates the word as “to purge”. Also note that the same word is used in Joel 3:21 where the ESV translates it as “avenge”. So… what do you think Zech 5:3 really means?? And what English word would you use to translate **nakah** here?
11. To add more to the confusion, look at Nahum 1:3 which also uses the word **nakah** and says “YHWH will in no way **nakah** the guilty”, yet in Zech 5:3 it seems clear that YHWH will indeed **nakah** the guilty! How do you reconcile these two verses? What would you use to translate **nakah** now?
12. The scroll will go in the “house” of the one breaking YHWH’s commands and consume it. What might “the house” represent? Can you give examples where “the house” in Hebrew refers to people rather buildings?
13. Summarize this vision and its meaning.
14. Contrast this vision and its message with that of vision #3. See Zech 2:5.
15. How would this vision have been received by the people of Zechariah’s time? What would it have encouraged them to do?
16. How does this prophetic vision apply to us today?