



## Structure

As we have observed before, the 8 night visions found in Zechariah 1 through 6 were visions received in a single evening by the prophet. In addition, they are organized as a chiasm, as shown below:

A – man on red horse & horses

B – 4 horns, 4 builders

C – rebuilding Jerusalem

D – High Priest Joshua

D\* – Zerubbabel

C\* – Flying scroll

B\* – Evil removed

A\* – Lord of whole earth

Today's lesson covers the 6th and 7th visions (C\* and B\*). The 6th vision pictures God's righteous standards enforced worldwide, which relates back to the 3rd vision (Zech. 2) that pictures Messiah (Jesus) dwelling in Jerusalem and ruling over the nations of the world. The 7th vision pictures evil being permanently removed from Israel, and this parallels the 2d vision (Zech 1:18-22) where Israel's enemies are removed from the land.

1. **Sixth Vision — The Fly Scroll (5:1-4):** Zechariah sees a flying scroll that measures 20 cubits long and 10 cubits wide. The exact length of a cubit is debated but most scholars take it to be about 18 inches, which would make the scroll about 30 feet by 15 feet.

— The scroll is the size of a banner so that it is easily seen.

— The scroll / banner is described as a “curse” (compare Deut. 11:26-28), a term that usually refers to the penalty for a violation of God's standards.

— The scroll / banner references two of the 10 commandments, the prohibition against stealing and the prohibition against bearing false witness, but we are probably best to understand these as representative of God's righteous standards.

— The scroll enters and consumes the “house” of the thief and the liar like a fire consumes a real house, but here “house” is a metaphor for the person

— Those in Messiah's kingdom will be a refined remnant, **compare Zechariah 13:1-6; Hebrews 1:8**

2. **Seventh Vision — The Ephah (5:5-11):** Zechariah sees an “ephah” which was a measure of a liquid or solid, about a bushel or 5 gallons. But here “ephah” is a figure of speech (metonymy) for the container used to measure, and thus may be thought of as a basket or basket that will hold an “ephah” of evil.

— The basket is covered by a heavy lid made of lead.

— Within the basket is a woman who represents wickedness.

— The basket of wickedness is flown away to “Shinar,” an ancient name for the region where Babylon is. In the past, God exiled the Jews for their wickedness; in the future God will exile their wickedness.

— Wickedness will be placed on a pedestal in a temple in Shinar like an idol, perhaps predatory to the final judgment on Babylon recorded in Revelation 17-18.

3. **\*\*KEY QUESTION:** If during Messiah's kingdom wickedness is punished and removed, what is to prevent more unrighteousness from happening? What is to prevent new instances of idolatry, theft, murder, etc.? Consider Ezekiel 36:16-38; Jeremiah 31:31-34.