

ZECHARIAH

The Apocalypse of the Old Testament

Chapter 5, Part 2

Zechariah 5

⁵ Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, “Lift your eyes now, and see what this *is* that goes forth.”

⁶ So I asked, “What *is* it?” And he said, “It *is* a basket that is going forth.”

He also said, “This *is* their resemblance throughout the earth: ⁷ Here *is* a lead disc lifted up, and this *is* a woman sitting inside the basket”; ⁸ then he said, “This *is* Wickedness!” And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.

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⁹ Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there *were* two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.

¹⁰ So I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they carrying the basket?”

¹¹ And he said to me, “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, *the basket* will be set there on its base.”

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- The **first part of this chapter** (*verses 1-4, the flying scroll*) reveals:
 - ✓ the Law of God covers the entire earth
 - ✓ all are subject and accountable to it
 - ✓ God will punish violators
 - ✓ They will be swept away from God's presence
 - ✓ No one is exempt from the Law, except those found under the blood of the acceptable sacrifice

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- This next vision indicates not only will sinners be banished, but ultimately so will sin itself and the potential for sin.
- In the meantime, there will be massive and increasing wickedness before evil will be contained and destroyed.
- This banishment is not just limited to Israel, as in these visions for then current Israel recovering from her exile, but **extends to all people** because God's principles are the same for the rest of mankind, not just Israel.

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COMMENTARY: *We now come to the second of the two visions contained in the 5th chapter, which, together, set forth the full and final removal, not only of the guilt of sin , but of sin itself (especially in its final and yet future form of “wickedness ” or lawlessness) — and that by means of judgment — from off the “ holy land,” and from the very presence of His redeemed and purified people. (Baron)*

Zechariah 5



⁵Then the angel who talked with me came out and said to me, “Lift your eyes now, and see what this is that goes forth.”

⁶So I asked, “What is it?” And he said, “It is a basket that is going forth.”

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- It is interesting to note that the question “***what is it?***” contains a feminine pronoun (it). It’s as if Zechariah knew something about the contents before even seeing the woman inside.
- **Basket** = *ephah*, of Egyptian derivation; an ephah or measure for grain; a measure in general. The largest VOLUME measure used by Israelites.
- Many think this basket represents the **fullness of Israel’s** (and the world’s) **sins** before God.

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- There are many passages that tell us that God allows evil to fully develop, or for sins to fill up its “full measure” **before He takes action.**

“For the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.”
(Genesis 15:16).

“But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Romans 2:5).

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“Come out of her my people... for her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.” (Revelation 18:4, 5)

- Jesus chastised the Pharisees, *“Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers guilt.”* (Matthew 23:32)
- In 1 Thessalonians Paul writes about the Jews *“who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us... forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins...”* (1 Thessalonians 2:15-16)

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- *“And in the latter time of their kingdom, When the transgressors have reached their fullness, A king shall arise, Having fierce features, Who understands sinister schemes.”*
(Daniel 8:23)
- Over and over the Bible emphasizes this peculiar concept of the accumulation of sins, guilt, and the wrath of God.



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- **HOWEVER...** the use of the ephah, a measurement used in commerce, in addition to the **talent** (*a measure for counting out money, which we see in the next verse*) leads many to think the basket represents what would become, and is still becoming, the **source of the world's descent into even worse sin –**



commerce, business and finance.

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COMMENTARY: *If we ask ourselves what was this new power, or principle, which exercised such a mighty formative influence over the Jewish people ever since the Babylonian Captivity, and which is gradually also bringing all the other nations of the earth under its sway, the answer is trade or commerce, of which the ephah is the natural emblem. (Baron)*

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- After Judah's captivity to Babylon, the chosen people of God began a ***gradual transformation*** from an agricultural culture to one of commerce and merchandising.
- In captivity, they had to learn new occupations. Instead of raising crops and herds, they became tradespeople, selling their wares and services.
- Eventually, as it usually does with all cultures, **commercialism brings the temptation to ignore God's laws in order to make a profit.**

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- **Amos spoke of this** in regard to God's judgment on the northern kingdom of Israel even before their destruction:

*“When will the New Moon be past,
That we may sell grain? And the
Sabbath, That we may trade wheat?
Making the ephah small and the
shekel large, Falsifying the scales by
deceit..”* (Amos 8:5)



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- Amos indicates here that the people of God were not concerned about the ordained holidays of God and His precepts. They acknowledged them only because it was part of the Law. It was pure legalism only.
- Their hearts were completely wrong and far away from God. ***They couldn't wait for these days and their restrictions to be gone so they could again make money and even cheat to do so.***

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COMMENTARY: *It is a striking and noteworthy fact, which no intelligent man can fail to observe, that commerce is more and more bringing the nations under its sway. It now sets up the governments and dictates the policies of the nations. It is for it that the mighty armaments are being built and that wars are being made. In all the earth and among all nations that which is symbolised by the ephah is becoming the great controlling centre of society. ...*

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...“The producing power of manufacture, the distributing skill of the merchant, the controlling power of those who trade in money and command the circulating medium of commerce — these and similar interests, when combined, are able to speak with a voice which no government can refuse to hear. Their will is potent. Legislation and government accommodate themselves to their demands.”

(Baron, 1895!!!!) Wonder what he'd think today???

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He also said, “This is their resemblance throughout the earth: ⁷ Here is a lead disc *[talent of lead, KJV]* lifted up, and this is a woman sitting inside the basket”; ⁸ then he said, “This is Wickedness!” And he thrust her down into the basket, and threw the lead cover over its mouth.

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- *This is their “**resemblance**”* – Hebrew *ayin*; an eye (literally or figuratively); the eye of the landscape, outward appearance. In other words, **“Here’s what it (this wickedness) looks like....”**
- *“**Throughout the earth...**”* This wickedness is now not limited to Israel. It influences the entire earth.
- *“**talent of lead**”* (KJV) The talent was the largest measure of weight, and it was used in all commercial transactions for weighing out money.

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- It is interesting this is what is used as the **cover for the ephah**. Both the basket and the talent were signs and symbols of commercialism.
- In addition to the largest *volumetric* measure God brings the largest *weight* measure to this vision. The talent was the largest OT Hebrew measure of weight. Weight of one talent was about 75-100 lbs.
- Lead is also synonymous with heaviness in scripture.

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The Israelites spent 70+ years
in Babylon, the most advanced
people on earth at that time.

They excelled in two things:
the occult, and commerce.

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- While in Babylon, the Hebrew people changed from being an agrarian culture to commerce.
- Babylon was the most important city in the world for almost 2000 years. It was the commercial and financial center of Mesopotamia. They also developed the arts of divination, astronomy, astrology, accounting, mathematics, and commercial laws.
- Many of our systems today come from this region, and many **are still influencing us**.

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- The chosen of God also picked up the **occultic practices of Babylon** while in captivity. These two things, commerce (*business*) and spiritual rebellion (*occult*) will be **found later in the book of Revelation** where we meet the Mystery Babylon woman riding the beast. *More on this later.*
- **The woman in the basket here ties these two types of rebellion (*spiritual and economic/worldliness*) together.**



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- Babylon represents not only a physical place on a map, but as a **spiritual “type,”** also represents every system that exalts itself above, and opposes, the Most High God.

COMMENTARY: We regard, therefore, the woman in this vision, not as a personification of the Jewish people, nor as a collective representation of individual sinners who are finally gathered into one heap in the ephah, but as delineating the (then as yet hidden) **moral system of which the ephah is the emblem.** (Baron)

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- God **implores us to come out of Babylon**. We are not to participate in her sins. We are not to do business the way she does, nor practice her spiritual evils.

Revelation 18:4-5: *“And I heard another voice from heaven, saying Come out of her, my people that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”*

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- The cover is “lifted up” to introduce the [one] woman into the ephah. (*Not indefinite “a” woman.*) This is not just ANY woman, she is one woman, a specific woman, who represents wickedness.
- “Sitting”: This woman seems to be comfortably surrounded by, flourishing in the center of, the ephah – *godless commerce.*



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- The woman who sits in the basket is the personification of evil and the wickedness of mankind, as they pursue worldly goals without and *instead of God*.
- Her sitting in this wickedness may indicate she delights in it.
- We need to understand that this does not represent mere commerce or business, but **godless commercialism** and the **worship of money**.



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COMMENTARY: *What we have in this vision is a continuation of judgment upon the sin and iniquity of Israel. It looks forward to the Millennium where sin and iniquity will be removed from the land. Also, it looks forward to the judgment of Babylon, which will precede the Millennium. We need to compare it with Revelation 18 where we see the judgment of commercial Babylon. (Revelation 17 pictures the judgment of religious Babylon.) God will judge this matter of covetousness. (McGee)*

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- The angel throws down a heavy weight symbolically sealing sin. The verses at the end of this chapter indicate a place for it is being prepared.
- Some interpret this action as indicating God will definitely prevent sin from interfering with His people and Kingdom any longer.
- Some believe that its position above the earth signifies that it will have complete control over all the earth. *It certainly seems that way today.*

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- If we hold to the position that the ephah and the talent represent ungodly commercialism, that is certainly what is happening today.
- Revelation 18 seems to confirm this. But God promises elsewhere that sin itself will be destroyed eventually.

It must be.

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- Women are often used symbolically in scripture to represent evil, and most especially **seduction**. This is because Eve was the first to sin and then *seduced her husband to join her*.
- There are several women in scripture symbolic for **spiritual conditions**, both good and bad:
- Israel is portrayed as the Wife of YHVH in the Old Testament
- Believers in Yeshua are the Bride of Messiah in the New Testament.

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- Contrasting this, however, there are several other women who represent evil and seduction.
- In one of Yeshua's parables He says: *"... 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.'" (Matthew 13:33)* Some interpret the leaven here as the Word of God, but ***this cannot be.***

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- Leaven is used some 95 times in scripture in both the Old and New testaments, and it is NEVER used to represent anything good. It ALWAYS represents evil, lies, sin, and wickedness.
- Leaven here represents the false and evil teachings that cause the Word of God to be corrupted. And a woman is used as a symbol of the seduction (*some are very attractive, especially to our sinful flesh*) of false teachings.

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- We also have the woman at Thyatira who was called **Jezebel**, and considered evil in the midst of the “called out ones” (*ekklesia, church*). She corrupted the Church.
- It is likely the name Jezebel was used to *personify the evil* in that place. The story of the real Jezebel and Ahab (1 and 2 Kings) reveals her true nature, which is what is being referenced in this letter to the church at Thyatira.

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²⁰ Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman (some translations say “your wife”) Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²² Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. (Revelation 2:20-22)

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- And then the **Harlot who rides the beast** in Revelation 17. She is a **picture of harlotry and apostasy** and serves as a spiritual symbol of evil worship (*the apostate church, all false teachings, false worship, false religions, etc. may be included in this picture*).



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- This biblical symbol is associated with the woman in the ephah in this chapter, and we will *talk more about her in a few moments*.
- So, unfortunately, gals, **women are portrayed as seducers, those who entice others to evil**. The woman in this basket is doing the same thing.
- Some people see the woman *as trying to escape* the basket because she knows her doom is near.

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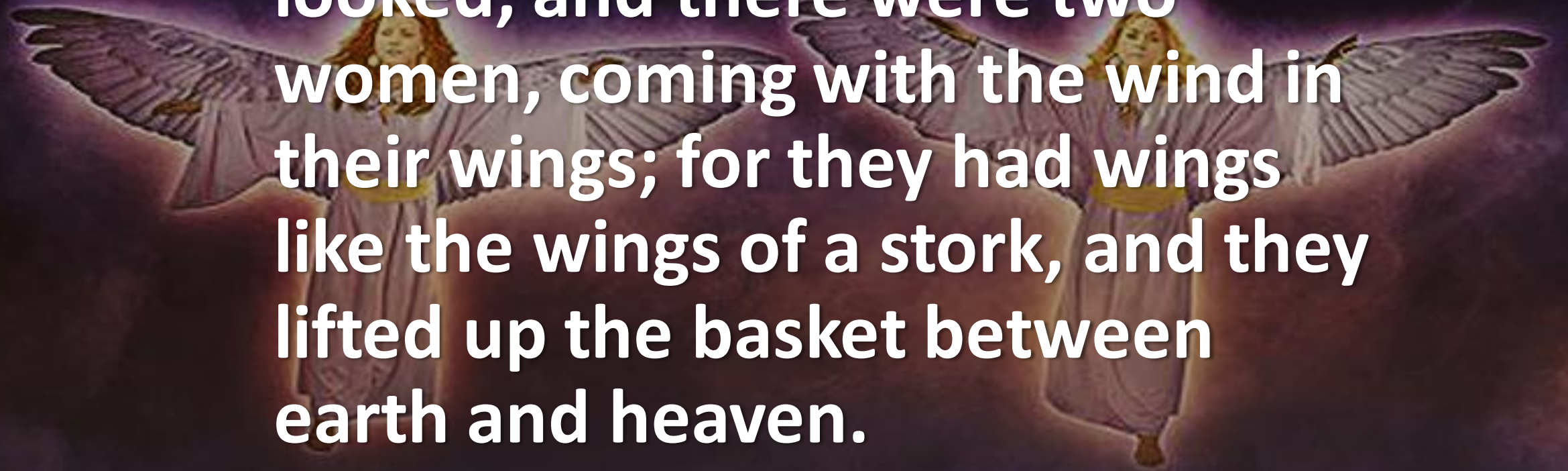
COMMENTARY: *Having announced concerning the woman, This is wickedness, thereupon he [the interpreting angel] cast her [the woman] into the middle of the ephah and cast the lead stone [weight] upon its mouth [opening].... She has been all along sitting or dwelling in the ephah, contentedly, but now that the time has come for commercial Babylon to be removed, to be destroyed, the woman tries to escape from it because she does not want to be removed with it, and so share its inevitable fate. Therefore, she tries to escape. (Unger)*

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- The woman *may* be trying to escape, thus the lead talent thrown on the basket, but we aren't really told she wishes to escape.
- Perhaps it is understood as the angel also "thrusts" her down into the basket and then slams the weight on top to prevent her escape.
- Whether or not she is trying to escape and get out of the basket, it is clear she won't be able to. **She (wickedness) is doomed.**

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⁹Then I raised my eyes and looked, and there were two women, coming with the wind in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.



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- “***Then***” – this vision is dynamic, moving and changing as Zechariah watches it unfold. He first sees the basket, then the woman inside and now two other women with wings of a stork lift up the basket.
- There is discussion and difference of opinion as to the identity of these “two women.” Some see them as good agents (*or symbols of agents*) sent by God to remove sin and take it to Babylon (Shinar) where it will be destroyed. *Note these are NOT angels.*

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- From many scriptures, we can **speculate that Babylon will be the commercial center of the world during Antichrist's reign** and it will be destroyed during Armageddon.
- The wicked commercialism of Babylon originated in the days of Nimrod (Genesis 11:4). God taking the ephah there symbolizes Him letting the wicked commercialism flourish in the future one-world capital until it is finally removed forever.



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- However, we need to notice something else. ***There is an interesting clue here.*** These women have the “wings of a stork.” Storks are “unclean” in the Torah.
- Seems unlikely God would use a symbol of something unclean as instruments of good.



‘And these
you shall
regard as an
abomination
(“intensively
filthy”)
among the
birds; they
shall not be
eaten, they
are an
abomination
...the stork
(v.19)
(Leviticus
11:13-20)

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- Some suggest these two women are not angels or agents of good, but agents of evil. Perhaps God uses them for His purposes, as He does all things.
- To assign them the identity of “good angels,” however, is incorrect. Having the wings of an unclean bird would most likely preclude that idea.
- ***“Lifted up the basket between earth and heaven...”***
From this place, wickedness can influence the entire earth. Godless commercialism will be the driving force of the final days of man’s dominion on earth.

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- When John described Mystery Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18, he was not seeing a literal city but a **system of rebellion**. This rebellion took the form of godless commercialism coupled with godless worship and evil spiritual practices.
- Now this godless commercialism and false worship, this entire system of rebellion against the One True God, is being raised above the earth, where it will have influence upon the entire earth in the future (*then and now, and into the future*). ***There is evidence of this everywhere we look.***

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¹⁰So I said to the angel who talked with me, “Where are they carrying the basket?”

¹¹And he said to me, “To build a house for it in the land of Shinar; when it is ready, the basket will be set there on its base.”

Shinar

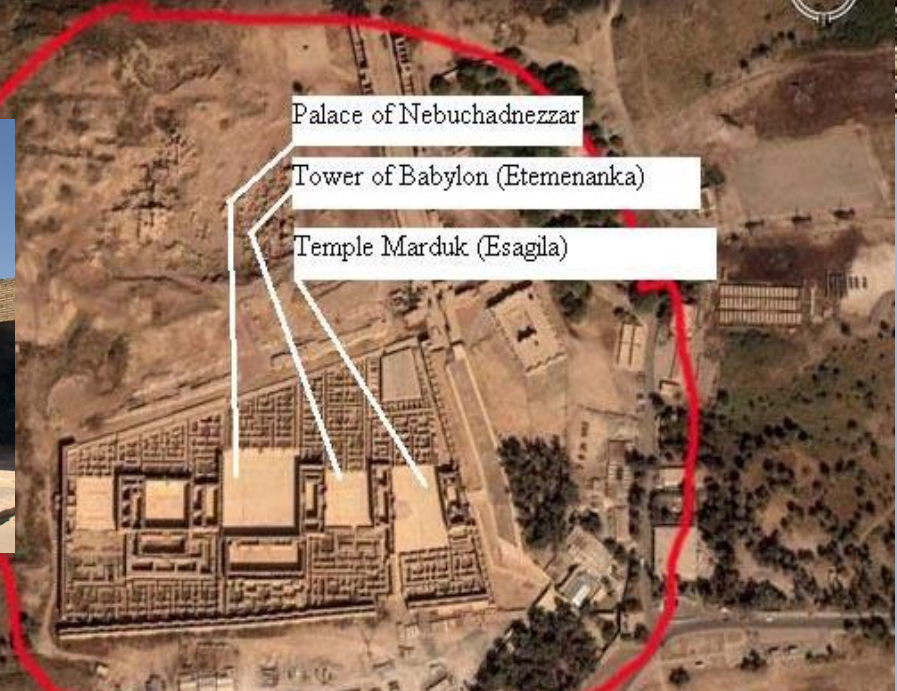
• **Babel**

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- **Shinar = Babylon**, where rebellion against God began. Chaldees, Chaldeans, etc. referenced almost 400 times in scripture (*either the people, the nation, or the place*).
- We need to do **some quick study on Babylon** in order to fully understand this vision, and the future.
- Babylon is **first mentioned in Genesis 10** (*The Euphrates River, as early as Genesis 2:14*) and appears more than 300 times in the Bible.

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- Today it still exists as a literal city, located about 62 miles south of Bagdad in current Iraq.
- More importantly, however, it stands in scripture as a **vivid type for the world in rebellion to Elohim.**



Zechariah 5

Origin and History

- Nimrod, the first world dictator (*name means “rebel”*) built the Tower of Bab-el as the center piece of his rebellion against God.
- The word *Bav* (our Bab) means “gate” and *El* means God. Bab-el translates to “**gateway to god.**” This was the beginning of the city of Babylon.
- God disrupted this rebellious coalition by confusing their tongues in Genesis 11.

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- In 627 BC Nabopolassar, father to Nebuchadnezzar, led a rebellion to break Babylon away from the Assyrians and establish a new empire, which would go on to become a ***true world empire*** under Nebuchadnezzar.
- **Tower of Babel** ziggurat was rebuilt by Nebuchadnezzar as ***Etemenanki***, literally ***“the building which is the foundation of heaven and earth.”***



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- In 606 BC, Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem, taking the first captives into captivity in Babylon.
- 19 years later in 587 BC, after continuous rebellion by Israel, Nebuchadnezzar came back to Jerusalem (*3rd time*) and completely destroyed the Temple, and took remaining Israelites into Babylonian captivity.
- 70 years after the captivity began, just on schedule per God's prophecies, **Cyrus the Great, the Persian king**, diverted the Euphrates river and entered the grand city of Babylon, to conquer it without a fight.

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- The events of that night inside Babylon can be read in Daniel 5. This ended the Babylonian empire, and began the Persian empire in 539 BC.
- Throughout successive empires, **Babylon was never destroyed**, since it was such a magnificent city. Alexander the Great died there, after having conquered the Persian empire, sweeping in the Greek empire.



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- Over the successive years, Babylon fell into disrepair, and was pretty much abandoned to the sands of time – but it was never destroyed.
- Recently it has popped up again as the center of a world effort to make it a tourist attraction, and earlier during the first Iraq war (Desert Storm, 1991) when military troops were stationed there.
- Saddam Hussein, the former dictator of Iraq, had been **rebuilding Babylon for many years**, pouring millions of dollars into its restoration.

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- He successfully rebuilt the famed dining hall and throne room where the handwriting on the wall took place in Daniel 5. This huge ceremonial room was used for various state functions over the past several years of Hussein's dictatorship.

U.S. TO HELP REBUILD CITY OF BABYLON IN IRAQ



Iraqi soldiers walk past a replica of the Ishtar Gate of Ancient Babylon, south of Baghdad, January 13, 2009. (Reuters photo)

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- There are international plans in the works to rebuild the Tower of Babel as a hotel, with a monorail to connect the city features. A 400-seat Greek style theater, built during the reign of Alexander, is also being reconstructed.



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- It is important to note that Babylon has never been destroyed. There is a literal and prophetic difference between the **FALL** of Babylon as a world empire, and the **DESTRUCTION** of Babylon as a city.
- In 539 BC, Cyrus and the Persians defeated Babylon, and the Babylonian empire fell. But the city was never destroyed. It was occupied by the Persians and the Greeks during their subsequent empires, and even by the Romans.

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- It fell into ruin over the years from neglect, not war. It has never been completely abandoned, which is also prophesied. It has been continually inhabited by Bedouins and others.
- Parts of it have been rebuilt, but not completely. In order to literally fulfill prophecy it appears that *Babylon will be rebuilt* and may become the headquarters of the final world government before its complete destruction. (See Isaiah 13:19, 20; Jeremiah 50:39-40).

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- Six chapters in scripture deal with the destruction of Babylon (Isaiah 13 and 14, Jeremiah 50 and 51, and Revelation 17 and 18.) The passages in Isaiah and Jeremiah deal with both the physical and spiritual aspects of Babylon.
- The passage in Revelation deals mostly in the spiritual aspects of Babylon.
- The destruction of Babylon predicted by both Isaiah and Jeremiah has never been fulfilled.

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- All forms of occultic practices had their origins in the original city of Babylon. A few examples...
- Tammuz, the son of Nimrod and his queen, Semiramis, was identified with the Babylonian Sun God, and worshipped following the winter solstice (December 22-23).
- As Babylon was conquered by subsequent empires, this entire religious system was transplanted, first to **Pergamos** (See Revelation 2:12-17) and then to **Rome**.

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- Constantine established Christianity as state religion of Rome; many traditions and practices of earlier pagan worship were adopted and incorporated into the “new religion.”
- As the Babylonian religious system was integrated with Christian ceremonial observances, many of our traditions surrounding several “Christian” holidays became **rooted in pagan culture.**



Zechariah 5

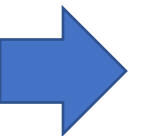
- The winter solstice and worship of the Babylonian Sun God gave us the date we celebrate Christmas, as well as many other pagan traditions.
- Babylonian worship of Ishtar (**the mother goddess of Babylon**), the Golden Egg of Astarte, and the fertility rites of spring give us Easter (*a pagan name*).
- The year-end on October 31, and its associated occultic rituals, give us Halloween. Many ancient cultures (Celts, Druids, etc.) observed October 31, the Eve of Samhain, as their year-end. This was related to the worship of Baal (Mars).

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- Now we need to read the end of the story, where this evil appears again, and is judged. The two chapters in Revelation 17 and 18 are critical for understanding Zechariah:

Revelation 17 (selected passages: 17:1-7; 15-18)

¹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."



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³ So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. ⁵ And on her forehead a name was written:

*MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS
AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

⁶ I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

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⁷ But the angel said to me, “Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her,

¹⁵ Then he said to me, “The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. ¹⁷ For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. ¹⁸ And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

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- There are some who regard “Mystery Babylon” (Revelation 17) as a symbolic allusion to the United States. The idea relies heavily on the Greco-Roman aesthetic traditions of Washington architecture, Columbia as a woman figure, Masonic influences on early heraldry, etc.
- Most likely, however, Babylon represents **ALL the world who worships the enemy** and practices those things which are “an abomination” to God, in opposition to Him. *(and that would definitely, at this time, be true for the United States of America, and others.)*

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- Some also believe that the Babylon in Revelation Chapter 17 and 18 are different; an **ecclesiastical (religious)** Babylon and a **commercial Babylon**.
- This seems logical, as the focus of chapter 17 is on the *spiritual*, false worship and ritual that is in opposition to God. The focus of chapter 18 is on *commerce, business*, and the way in which the world in general opposes God's ways and does business wickedly.

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- However, as we have seen, the ephah and talent are symbols for commercialism and the harlot sitting contentedly in the ephah signals the godlessness of these practices. Babylon was known both for commercialism AND occultism. **The two are hardly able to be separated** as the flesh and worldly lusts take over from true worship of El Elyon.
- Babylon, (beginning at Ezekiel 28:2, 6-10) has been considered a Harlot for many years prior to this time.

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- ***“THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS...”*** This harlot is not alone. The Harlot is the mother of many daughter churches that have followed in her sin. This "Mother Church" has other “churches” that have come out of her, and have her characteristics still in them.
- The "Mother Church" has influenced her "daughters" to also become harlots. They become apostate and fall out of relationship with the One True God. Spiritually, they became guilty of prostitution with the world and idolatry. This can be true of ANY church, ANY denomination.

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- The verse *“And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth.” (17:18)* leads many to believe the woman is Rome, or even the Roman Church.
- The Catholic Church is the first of the organized Christian churches. The history of the Catholic church is full of bloodshed, incredible riches and wealth, and political intrigue.
- The corruption of the organized church led to the many “breakaways” into Protestantism, and other areas.
Sadly, these too have become corrupt for the most part.

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- It is becoming very difficult to find a solid Bible truth-based church not more concerned with political rightness, world acceptance and social agendas than the truth of God's Word.
- The Bible could be called **“The Tale of Two Cities.”** Throughout scripture Babylon is referenced both in a physical and a spiritual way. There are almost 300 references to Babylon, which has become a universal and well-known type for spiritual apostacy.



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- And that falling away is **mostly due to godless commercialism and occult beliefs and practices**.
Babylon is the origin of ALL occultic practices, systems and theologies.
- She is also the founder of worldwide commerce and excelled in this area for centuries. Babylon has, therefore, become the City of Evil (or the Evil One) and Jerusalem is the City of God, and God's children, the capital of His chosen city. The battle between Babylon (worldliness, flesh, world opposed to God) and Jerusalem runs throughout scripture.

Zechariah 5

- It is interesting to note that sin began in this area, and it will end here as well.
- **Bottom line:** Babylon represents EVERYTHING *(every spiritual and physical system)* that sets itself up in opposition to God. This includes false worship, godless commercialism, corrupt government, etc. It is the epitome of sin that has corrupted everything.
- We also need to take a look at Revelation 18, where the destruction of Mystery Babylon continues, with commercial as well as religious overtones.

Zechariah 5

Revelation 18

¹ After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. ² And he cried mightily[a] with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! ³ For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.”

Zechariah 5

⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. ⁵ For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. ⁷ In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ ⁸ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine.

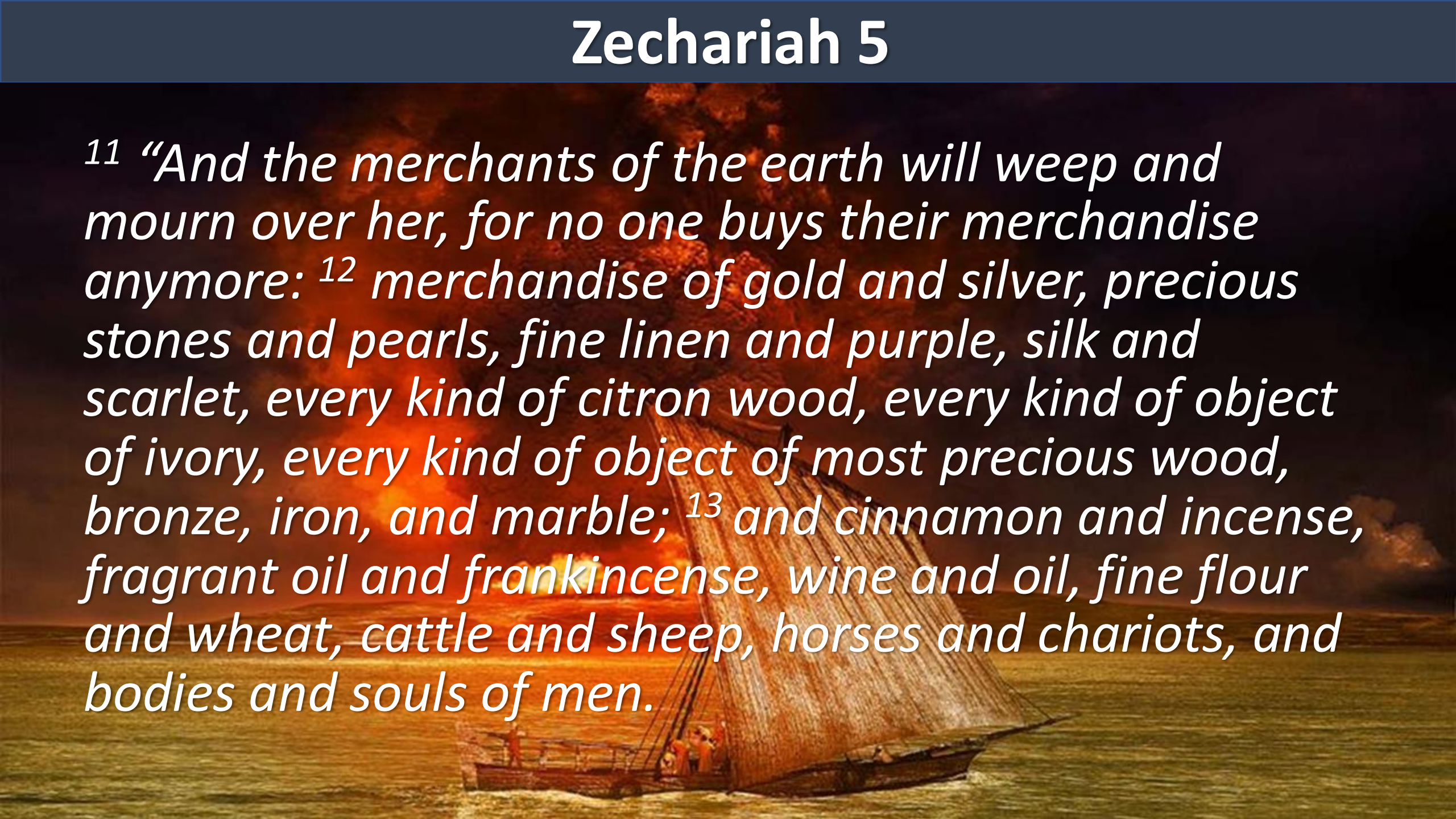
Zechariah 5

And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

⁹ “The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, ‘Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.’

Zechariah 5

¹¹ “And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: ¹² merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble; ¹³ and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and bodies and souls of men.

A traditional Chinese junk boat with a large, brown, textured sail is sailing on a body of water. The sky is a dramatic, fiery orange and red, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The boat is positioned in the lower center of the frame, with its sail catching the light. The water is a dark, choppy green. The overall mood is one of tragedy and loss, which aligns with the biblical text about the merchants of the earth weeping and mourning.

Zechariah 5

¹⁴ The fruit that your soul longed for has gone from you, and all the things which are rich and splendid have gone from you, and you shall find them no more at all. ¹⁵ The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ¹⁶ and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls!

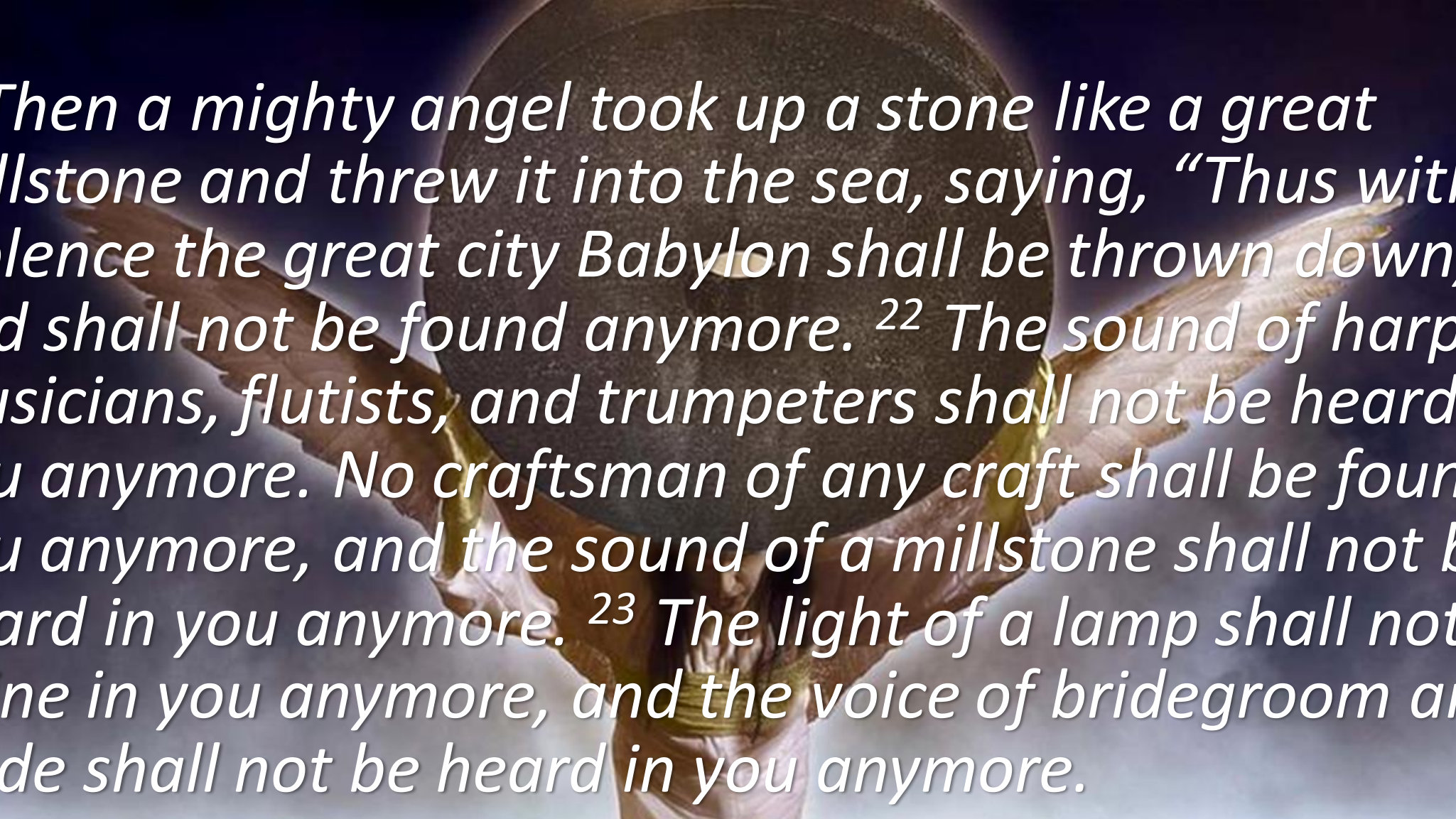
Zechariah 5

¹⁷ For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.¹⁸ Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?'

¹⁹ "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.'

²⁰ "Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!"

Zechariah 5

An angel with large, feathered wings is shown from the waist up, holding a large, dark, circular millstone. The angel is wearing a white robe and has a halo-like glow around their head. The background is a soft, hazy blue and white, suggesting a sky or a divine realm. The text is overlaid on the image, following the contours of the millstone and the angel's wings.

²¹ Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. ²² The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists, and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. ²³ The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore.

Zechariah 5

**For your merchants
were the great men of
the earth, for by your
sorcery all the nations
were deceived.** ²⁴ And in
her was found the blood of
prophets and saints, and of
all who were slain on the
earth.”



Zechariah 5

- Notice who the great men of the earth are. It is this way today, and getting even worse. And it is by their “sorcery” that all nations are deceived.
- It is interesting to note the word **sorcery** is ***pharmakeia*** in Greek. It is the word we get our “*pharmacy and pharmaceuticals*” from. It means medication/drugs, but also magic and witchcraft. Witchcraft is rebellion against God. This is a bit chilling, considering that we have truly become a drug culture (*licit and illicit!*).

Zechariah 5

- The vision of the woman riding the beast in Revelation 17 represents the marriage of false religion to the various governments and commercialism of this world. The beast she rides is the last world empire, which was described in Daniel chapter seven.
- It is the final form of government under absolute control of the Antichrist, possibly ruling from Babylon, supported by the False Prophet leading the world's apostate religions to worship the Antichrist.

Zechariah 5

- The harlot in Revelation 17 is very likely related to the woman in the basket in Zechariah 5. *She may in fact, be one and the same.*
- Zechariah 5 tells us that not only will every sinner be punished with separation from God (*unless covered by the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God*), but sin itself will be rounded up, and removed for destruction to where sin has its deepest roots – Babylon.

Zechariah 5

But until that day, the world's spiritual climate will get darker and darker, as the earth falls more under the spell of the harlot, drunk on the blood of the saints, but still dominating the world with her lusts.