

Discussion Guide

Zechariah 5:1–11

Opening Prayer

Guided Prayer: Pray asking for the Holy Spirit's help to understand the weight of sin and the mercy of Christ.

Recap

In Zechariah 5, the prophet is shown two visions: a flying scroll and a woman in a basket. These visions are God's powerful and sobering picture of how He deals with sin—discovering it, judging it, and ultimately removing it. The scroll contains God's curse upon those who break His commandments, and it flies into every house, leaving no sin hidden. The woman in the basket, named Wickedness, is sealed away and carried to Babylon—symbolizing God's active judgment and removal of evil from His people.

These visions remind us that the gospel is not merely about encouragement—it is also about purification. As we reflect on this during Palm Sunday, we see Jesus riding into Jerusalem not just as the coming King, but also as the one who confronts sin, purifies the temple, and prepares to carry the curse for us at the cross. This chapter reminds us why we need the cross, and why Christ had to come.

Understanding the Text

- 1. What does the size and visibility of the flying scroll teach us about God's judgment and law?
- 2. Why are theft and false swearing specifically highlighted in the scroll? What might they reveal about the people of Zechariah's day?
- 3. How does the image of the scroll flying into homes challenge our modern views about sin and privacy?
- 4. What does the vision of the woman in the basket teach us about the nature of sin and God's plan to remove it?
- 5. Why is the basket taken to 'Shinar' (Babylon)? What does this setting communicate biblically?
- 6. How does Zechariah 5 deepen your understanding of why Jesus had to go to the cross?

Practical Application

- 1. Are there sins you've grown comfortable with that this passage challenges you to take more seriously?
- 2. How does your view of God's law align—or clash—with our culture's view of morality?
- 3. In what ways do you see society attempting to redefine sin apart from God's Word?
- 4. How can we better live as those whose sin has been removed and whose hearts are being made holy?
- 5. What does it look like to respond to God's law not with fear or rebellion, but with repentance and faith?

God Has More to Say

These additional Scriptures explore God's holiness, the weight of sin, the cross of Christ, and our call to live holy lives as His redeemed people.

God's Holiness and the Reality of Sin

- Leviticus 11:44–45
- Ecclesiastes 12:14
- Romans 3:10–20
- Psalm 90:8

Christ Bearing the Curse

- Galatians 3:10–14
- Colossians 2:13–14
- Isaiah 53:4–6
- 2 Corinthians 5:21

Sin Removed and Holiness Pursued

- Psalm 103:11–12
- 1 John 1:9
- Titus 2:11–14
- Revelation 21:27

Palm Sunday and Christ's Purification Work

- Matthew 21:12–13
- Zechariah 9:9
- Hebrews 9:11–14
- John 12:12–15