We are now coming to the end of the visions that Zechariah received. Throughout this book, these visions have painted a sweeping picture of both the first and second coming of the Lord, as well as the future millennial kingdom. As we come to the culmination of these visions in chapter 5 and 6, we are invited to stand in awe and excitement as we see God's plan for the ages unfold before us.

DAY ONE

Beginning with prayer, carefully observe Zechariah 5. Make sure to follow all the steps as laid out in last week's lesson on Day 1.

DAY TWO

1. Read Zechariah 5:1-4. This is Zechariah's sixth vision - the flying scroll.

    a. According to these verses, how big is the scroll? (A cubit is about eighteen inches)

    b. Do you think the size is significant in any way? Why or why not?

    c. According to the angel, what is written on the scroll?

    d. What two kinds of people are mentioned as being judged?

e. Why do you think these particular sins are highlighted?

f. What will the curse do when it enter's a person's house? What does this show about how seriously God takes sin? Do people today tend to take sin lightly? Read Jude 4 to help you answer that last question.

g. Now read Ephesians 4:28-29. Do you see any similarities between these verses and what you have just read in Zechariah 5?

2. Now it is time to look at the next vision, found in verses 5-11. We'll use some 5 W's and H questions. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions below.

a. According to the passage, what does it say is going forth?

b. How is it going forth?

c. Where is it going?

d. What will happen when it gets there?

e. "Going out" and "coming forth" are repeated in this chapter. Look at verses 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9. Pay attention to each occurrence, because you will be evaluating these two visions to see if they are related in some way.

3. The Hebrew word for *ephah* is H374 *epa*. It is Egyptian in origin and translated as *ephah* 34 times and *measures* 6 times in the Old Testament. It is a measure of grain equal to about 3/5 bushel. It was a practical trading standard and was usually a basket or a ceramic bowl or jar.

4. The ephah is going forth. What went forth in verses 1-4 (notice both references)? You are simply taking note of this to see whether these two visions might be related in any way.

5. Zechariah asked the angel who was speaking to him, "What is it?" in verse 6. The angel replied, "This is their appearance in all the land (and behold, a lead cover was lifted up); and this is a woman sitting inside the ephah." How do we unpack all of that information? Carefully sift through this description, and I will help you process some of this message.

   a. What was the ephah used for? What command was given concerning the ephah in Leviticus 19:35-36?

   b. What were the people of Israel accused of during the time of Zechariah's writing? Read Haggai 1:2-4; Nehemiah 5:1-13; and Malachi 3:8-9 (this jumps ahead in time a bit, but things hadn't changed much.)

   c. Keeping everything you have read so far in Zechariah 5 in mind, what sin do you think had overtaken the people? They may have come back from Babylon without their idols of silver and gold, made by human hands, but has something else taken the place of those idols—something new that has taken first place in their lives instead of God?

d. "This is their appearance in all the land . . ." Here, *"their"* is most likely refers to the people of Israel. "Appearance" is the Hebrew word *ayin (H5869* in the Strong's Concordance). This word is translated as *"eye"* or *"sight"* over 700 times.

   1) The same word is used in II Chronicles 16:9. What are the *"eyes"* of the Lord looking for?

   2) What do you think the eyes of the people of Israel are looking for?

e. The next phrase we want to look at is: "(and behold, a lead cover was lifted up); and this is a woman sitting inside the ephah."

   1) The lead cover was already in place, and it's now being lifted up for Zechariah to see inside. What is one of the main characteristics of lead?

   2) Lead is extremely heavy. If it was in place over the woman inside the ephah, what do you think its purpose was? What might it be preventing or holding down?

   3) We are not told who this woman is; she is simply mentioned as "a woman." Read verses 6-8 and record who or what this woman is, or what she represents.

   4) If she was able to be thrown down into the ephah and the lead weight was cast in on top of her, what does this show?

   5) If you thought this shows that she is being subdued or held back, do we see God's control over wickedness spoken of in other parts of the Bible? Start with Genesis 11:1-9 and II Thessalonians 2:6-7, and feel free to add your own examples.

   6) Does she not seem small in the Zechariah passage? What does that tell you about the relationship between God and wickedness? How does this help you when you encounter evil in this world each and every day?

6. This ephah, with the woman (wickedness) inside being constrained by the power of God (the lead weight), is now lifted up between the earth and the heavens. The two women who come out with the wind have wings like a stork. According to Leviticus 11:13-19 and Deuteronomy 14:12-18, the stork was considered an unclean bird. Storks can have wingspans of up to ten and a half feet, making them powerful birds. They are long-distance flyers, some covering more than 2,500 miles in three weeks on migratory routes often gliding on the air currents or winds. Can you see any reason why a stork might fit into this vision to portray something specific?

7. According to the passage, where were they taking the ephah (with wickedness inside)?

8. Where is Shinar? Look up these verses and record a more familiar name for Shinar. :Genesis 11:2-9; Genesis 10:10; Daniel 1:1-2.

9. Shinar is Babylon. What do we know about Babylon?

   a. How did it begin? What was the city built on? Make sure you are aware of what God told Noah when he got off the ark (Genesis 9:18).

   b. Genesis shows us how and on what Babylon was built. In Revelation, John shows us that it is a political power, a spiritual stronghold of demons, and an economical power in the world. It is the center of self—avarice (an extreme, selfish desire to get and keep wealth or material possessions)—and pride. Babylon is mentioned 273 times in Scripture. Read Isaiah 13 to see the prophecies made regarding Babylon. Revelation devotes two of its twenty-two chapters to describing the fall of this great dominating power in the world. If you have time, briefly skim Revelation 17:1 - 19:3. Record what you know about this evil place (and mindset) that will be judged. There is more room on the next page if needed.

10. Review the drawings that you have made on “The Visions of Zechariah” and look at the main idea of each vision. How do they relate to the people of Israel in the days of Zechariah?

11. Mark sure you go through the verbalization process for each of these visions as well as checking your themes on the “Zechariah at a Glance” chart.

12. You can check out what the commentaries have to say about Zechariah chapter 5 and call it a day. Hang in there, we are almost done with the visions.

DAY THREE

1. Today you will focus on Zechariah 6. In verses 1-8 you will discover the last of Zechariah's visions. I am sure you will breath a sigh of relief at the end of this day. I know it has been hard work, but it was necessary to determine the purpose of Zechariah's message to the people of that time (as well as all the wonderful promises that we learned along the way. After prayer, read through Zechariah 6:1-7:1. The reason you are looking at chapter 7 is to see that we are moving forward in time. Record when the visions came in Zechariah 1:1, 7, and notice how much time has lapsed as we enter chapter 7.

2. Observe Zechariah 6, incorporating all the steps that were explained at the beginning (key words, drawing, verbalizing, "At a Glance" chart. There are a couple of words to add to your Bible Marking Card.
    a. *Branch* (including pronouns)
    b. w*rath* - I use a black cloud to mark mine
    c. Also look for mentions of *Joshua*, but you should already have him on your card.

3. Verbalizing the vision.

4. Review your themes for Zechariah 5 and 6 and make any adjustments as needed.

DAY FOUR and DAY FIVE

1. Your work will be spread over two days, so don't try to do too much at one time. You are going to begin by looking at the structure of this chapter.

   a. Briefly describe what is happening in Zechariah 6:1-8.

   b. What is happening in Zechariah 6:9-15?

   c. When does this vision seem to end in this chapter? When will it take place? Use the words in the text to answer this question.

2. Let's focus on the eighth and final vision in Zechariah 6:1-8.

   a. What do you learn about the horses and chariots in this vision?

   b. Do you remember seeing horses in the first vision? Go back and read that vision and see if there are any similarities. Do you know of another place that four horses are mentioned? If so where? If not, that's okay—we will take about it in class.

c. Notice the phrases of *"going forth"* and *"patrolling."* Do you see any connections with other portions of Scripture you have studied?

d. The four chariots came from between two bronze mountains. Do you have any idea what these might represent?

e. Let's read Joel 3:1-2, 12-14 and see if that may give you some insight into the chariots and bronze mountains. As you read, keep a couple of things in mind. First, bronze is usually associated with judgment. The sin offering was brought and offered on the bronze altar located outside the Holy Place in the courtyard of the temple. Second, the Kidron Valley, which is located between the Mount of Olives to the east of Jerusalem and the temple mount in Jerusalem, is also called the Valley of Jehoshaphat. Does this help you understand the passage any better?

f. Notice that the Chariots in Zachariah 6 go to the north and the south. Look at the map and see what lies to the east of the land of Israel. Why does Nebuchadnezzar come "from the north" if Babylon is actually to the east?

3. Read Zechariah 6:9-15 again.

   a. According to Zechariah 6:11, who will get the crown and what is his office?

   b. What is "his" name and how is He described?

   c. According to verse 13, what will He do, and what are the two offices He will hold?

   d. Now you can wrestle with verses 14 and 15. See if you can discover who the men listed in 14 are.

   e. Who are those who are far off that will come to build the temple of the Lord? Use the last sentence in this verse to help put it into context and form your answer.

4. Do you remember reading about a *"Branch"* before? Go back to Zechariah 3 in Lesson 3, page 23. What did you learn about the *"Branch"* from the cross references? Do you think this is the same *"Branch?"* Why or why not?

5. Think about the Branch in chapter 6. What is happening to Joshua? Does this show you anything about Jesus, the Messiah? Look up the following verses and record what you learn.

   a. Psalm 110:1-4

   b. Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:5-10

   c. Hebrews 7:23-28

   d. Revelation 19:9-16

6. Now let's pull this all together. For three weeks, you have struggled to draw these visions. It has caused you to wrestle with Scripture and the limitations of your own mind and human reasoning. God is trying to show you something—relax and let Him speak. Think of the eight visions and what they would have meant in the context of the days of Zechariah, Zerubbabel, and Joshua as they encouraged and supervised the rebuilding of the temple. This temple was significantly smaller than the one that had been destroyed because of Israel's rebellion against God. Read Ezra 3:12 and notice how those who had seen Solomon's temple responded to this new temple that was being built. God offers gracious and comforting words in Zechariah 1:13-17. Read this promise again and record your response to it.

7. Have you seen God's kindness and graciousness in your life when you didn't deserved it? What impact did it have on your life and your relationship with the Lord? Read Romans 2:4 and then answer these questions. Application is always a necessary step in inductive Bible study!

8. There has been a repeated phrase that you may have missed in the first six chapters of Zechariah: "Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you."

   a. According to Zechariah 6:15, how will the people know that God has sent Zechariah?

   b. Now look at the other places this phrase was used and record your insights. Zechariah 2:9, 11; 4:9

9. What have you learned about the importance of obedience to the Lord in a believer's life? What is the application for you?"

10. You can check to see what your commentaries have to say about Zechariah 6.

Congratulations! You made it through a very difficult section of Zechariah. Are you beginning to see how much this book has for us? It is so rich and so powerful. We will not be able to answer all your questions, but you will come away from this study with a new appreciation of the sovereignty of the LORD of Hosts—the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Understanding Him better will help you ride out the storms in your life and keep your focus fixed on Him. One day soon, Jesus will be King over all the earth. He will be King forever. There will be a day—and what a day it will be!