Signs of the Times
Zechariah 5:1-11

The discovering of end time signs... signs from nature, spiritual signs, world political signs, technological signs, accelerator signs.

The derision over Bible prophecy and signs of the times (2 Peter 3:3-4)...

The deliberation of end time signs in two visions given to Zechariah... Visions 6-7 out of 8 visions in chapter 5 gives us 2 signs that will plague the world in the end times.

The Danger of Disobeying God’s Word (5:1-4)

The scroll that was flying.... The scroll was 30 feet by 15 feet; the dimensions of the Holy Place of the Temple.

The significance of the scroll... It had writing on both sides as there were two tablets Moses brought down from the mountain which contained the 10 commandments; 5 commandments were on each tablet.

The scroll contained the condemnation of God (5:3)...

The scroll contained the commandments of God (5:4a).... On one side of the scroll was the commandment not to steal; that was the third of 5 commandments (Exodus 20:15); on the other side of the scroll was the commandment not to take the name of the Lord in vain (Exodus 20:7); it too was the third of 5 commandments; by putting the middle commandment on each side of God’s law, it encompasses the whole law. The scroll is God’s law and was given to point out sin (Romans 7:7); the scroll is flying because the law of God “goes out over the face of the whole earth” (5:3); everyone will be judged by it (see John 17:17; Romans 2:2; John 5:24).
The scroll contained the curse of God (5:4b)...The curse of God will go forth and no one can stop it.

The signs of the times (2 Timothy 3:1-5,13)...

There is the relishing after sin (vvs. 1-4,13)...

There is the rise of atheism (vv. 4b-5a)...

There is the reality of God’s judgment (Zechariah 5:4c)… Zechariah envisions a day when there is an end to sin; the judgment begins in Revelation 5 when the Lamb of God takes the seven sealed scroll from the hand of God; when He breaks open the seals out comes a series of judgments: seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments; God is no longer silent; His days of long-suffering are over; His judgment begins with devastating disasters in the heavens (Revelation 6:15-16).

When Zechariah sees the flying scroll he sees the judgment of God falling on sin and bringing an end to sin and the sinner.

The Destruction of Corruption and Greed (5:5-8)

The world tour of the basket (5:5-6)... The basket is an ephah which is about 8 gallons; the basket symbolizes godless commercialism and corruption in business; the merchants were falsifying the scales (Amos 8:5).

The weight of the basket was filled with the iniquity of Israel (5:7-8a)... Her sins were overflowing the basket; the message Zechariah heard was “Wickedness;” they were not sinning by the pint, but by the ephah.

The wickedness of Israel is under a lid covering the basket (5:8b)... Since wickedness was inside, God was going to keep a lid on it until He wipes away the sins of greed, materialism, and deceit.

The Death of Religion (5:9-11)
The woman in the basket is a symbol of false religion (5:7b,9-10)… Religion is always represented as a female (Revelation 12:1; 2:20; Ephesians 5:22-23); Revelation 17:1-7 describes the scarlet woman riding on a scarlet beast; she is the apostate one world church of the Antichrist; the women in the basket is the apostate Israel and the apostate Church; she will plague the earth during the Tribulation.

The woman is stationed in Shinar or Babylon (5:11)… Babylon, under Nimrod represented a one world religion and one world government; some see Babylon being rebuilt under the Antichrist; others see Babylon as a representative of all false religion which includes nature worship of the sun, moon, stars with its signs of the Zodiac, oneness with the universe, reincarnation, salvation by works, baptismal regeneration, and so on.

The “Wickedness” of the woman is salivating a One World Religion (5:11)… For some time there has been movement toward a One World Church; seen in the planned construction of the Temple of Understanding in Washington DC; seen in the World Council of Churches (WCC) seeking to unite Protestants and Catholics under the authority of the pope of the Catholic Church; seen in the letter from Pope Francis, June 2015, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the WCC supporting Christian unity with the liberal wing of Protestantism.

In 1995 there was formed the United Religions Initiative bringing together representatives from all religions from 50 different countries; their plan is to take an “entity” from the various religions and adopt a globalized religion; this “entity” has been focused on “earthly spirits” rather than Jesus; this movement is a one world nature religion (see Romans 1:25).

It was Pope John Paul II in October 1986 who reached out to all religions of the world in an attempt to bring them under the influence of the Catholic Church--- this included Wiccans and African witch doctors; he was the first pope to kiss the Quran; the current pope has followed in his steps.

The book of Revelation speaks of a one world religion during the Great Tribulation called “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and the Abomination of the Earth” (17:5); could the woman in the basket be “The Mother of Harlots”?; the day will
come when false religion will die as the lid on the basket will fall on the woman and crush her and only the true Church of Jesus Christ will prevail (Matthew 16:18). Amen!
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