**Zechariah 5-9**

The Flying Scroll

**5**I looked again, and there before me was a flying scroll. **2**He asked me, “What do you see?” I answered, “I see a flying scroll, twenty cubits (30 feet) long and ten cubits (15 feet) wide.”

**3**And he said to me, “This is the curse that is going out over the whole land; for according to what it says on one side, every thief will be banished, and according to what it says on the other, everyone who swears falsely will be banished.  **4**The Lord Almighty declares, ‘I will send it out, and it will enter the house of the thief and the house of anyone who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in that house and destroy it completely, both its timbers and its stones.’”

The Woman in a Basket

**5**Then the angel who was speaking to me came forward and said to me, “Look up and see what is appearing.” **6**I asked, “What is it?” He replied, “It is a basket.” And he added, “This is the iniquity of the people throughout the land.”

**7**Then the cover of lead was raised, and there in the basket sat a woman! **8**He said, “This is wickedness,” and he pushed her back into the basket and pushed its lead cover down on it. **9**Then I looked up - and there before me were two women, with the wind in their wings! They had wings like those of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between heaven and earth. **10**“Where are they taking the basket?” I asked the angel who was speaking to me. **11**He replied, “To the country of Babylonia to build a house for it. When the house is ready, the basket will be set there in its place.”

Four Chariots

**6**I looked up again, and there before me were four chariots coming out from between two mountains - mountains of bronze. **2**The first chariot had red horses, the second black, **3**the third white, and the fourth dappled - all of them powerful. **4**I asked the angel who was speaking to me, “What are these, my lord?”

**5**The angel answered me, “These are the four spirits of heaven, going out from standing in the presence of the Lord of the whole world. **6**The one with the black horses is going toward the north country, the one with the white horses toward the west, and the one with the dappled horses toward the south.”

**7**When the powerful horses went out, they were straining to go throughout the earth. And he said, “Go throughout the earth!” So they went throughout the earth.

**8**Then he called to me, “Look, those going toward the north country have given my Spirit rest in the land of the north.”

A Crown for Joshua

**9**The word of the Lord came to me: **10**“Take silver and gold from the exiles Heldai, Tobijah and Jedaiah, who have arrived from Babylon. Go the same day to the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. **11**Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and set it on the head of the high priest, Joshua son of Jozadak. **12**Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the Lord. **13**It is he who will build the temple of the Lord, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.’ **14**The crown will be given to Heldai, Tobijah, Jedaiah and Hen son of Zephaniah as a memorial in the temple of the Lord. **15**Those who are far away will come and help to build the temple of the Lord, and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. This will happen if you diligently obey the Lord your God.”

Justice and Mercy, Not Fasting

**7**In the fourth year of King Darius, the word of the Lord came to Zechariah on the fourth day of the ninth month, the month of Kislev. **2**The people of Bethel had sent Sharezer and Regem-Melek, together with their men, to entreat the Lord **3**by asking the priests of the house of the Lord Almighty and the prophets, “Should I mourn and fast in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?”

**4**Then the word of the Lord Almighty came to me: **5**“Ask all the people of the land and the priests, ‘When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months for the past seventy years, was it really for me that you fasted? **6**And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves? **7**Are these not the words the Lord proclaimed through the earlier prophets when Jerusalem and its surrounding towns were at rest and prosperous, and the Negev and the western foothills were settled?’”

**8**And the word of the Lord came again to Zechariah: **9**“This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. **10**Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’

**11**“But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and covered their ears. **12**They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the Lord Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the Lord Almighty was very angry.

**13**“‘When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,’ says the Lord Almighty. **14**‘I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, where they were strangers. The land they left behind them was so desolate that no one traveled through it. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate.’”

The Lord Promises to Bless Jerusalem

**8**The word of the Lord Almighty came to me. **2**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her.”

**3**This is what the Lord says: “I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the Lord Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.”

**4**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age. **5**The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.”

**6**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “It may seem marvelous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvelous to me?” declares the Lord Almighty.

**7**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. **8**I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.”

**9**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Now hear these words, ‘Let your hands be strong so that the temple may be built.’ This is also what the prophets said who were present when the foundation was laid for the house of the Lord Almighty. **10**Before that time there were no wages for people or hire for animals. No one could go about their business safely because of their enemies, since I had turned everyone against their neighbor. **11**But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as I did in the past,” declares the Lord Almighty.

**12**“The seed will grow well, the vine will yield its fruit, the ground will produce its crops, and the heavens will drop their dew. I will give all these things as an inheritance to the remnant of this people. **13**Just as you, Judah and Israel, have been a curse[[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zechariah+5-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22990k)] among the nations, so I will save you, and you will be a blessing.[[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Zechariah+5-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22990l)] Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.”

**14**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Just as I had determined to bring disaster on you and showed no pity when your ancestors angered me,” says the Lord Almighty, **15**“so now I have determined to do good again to Jerusalem and Judah. Do not be afraid. **16**These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; **17**do not plot evil against each other, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the Lord.

**18**The word of the Lord Almighty came to me. **19**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “The fasts of the fourth, fifth, seventh and tenth months will become joyful and glad occasions and happy festivals for Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.”

**20**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, **21**and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.’ **22**And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him.”

**23**This is what the Lord Almighty says: “In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’”

Judgment on Israel’s Enemies

**9**A prophecy:

The word of the Lord is against the land of Hadrak
    and will come to rest on Damascus -
for the eyes of all people and all the tribes of Israel
    are on the Lord -
**2**and on Hamath too, which borders on it,
    and on Tyre and Sidon, though they are very skillful.
**3**Tyre has built herself a stronghold;
    she has heaped up silver like dust,
    and gold like the dirt of the streets.
**4**But the Lord will take away her possessions
    and destroy her power on the sea,
    and she will be consumed by fire.
**5**Ashkelon will see it and fear;
    Gaza will writhe in agony,
    and Ekron too, for her hope will wither.
Gaza will lose her king
    and Ashkelon will be deserted.
**6**A mongrel people will occupy Ashdod,
    and I will put an end to the pride of the Philistines.
**7**I will take the blood from their mouths,
    the forbidden food from between their teeth.
Those who are left will belong to our God and become a clan in Judah,
    and Ekron will be like the Jebusites.
**8**But I will encamp at my temple to guard it against marauding forces.
Never again will an oppressor overrun my people, for now I am keeping watch.

The Coming of Zion’s King

**9**Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious,
lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
**10**I will take away the chariots from Ephraim
    and the warhorses from Jerusalem,
    and the battle bow will be broken.
He will proclaim peace to the nations.
    His rule will extend from sea to sea
    and from the River to the ends of the earth.
**11**As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
    I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.
**12**Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope;
    even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.
**13**I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim. I will rouse your sons, Zion, against your sons, Greece, and make you like a warrior’s sword.

The Lord Will Appear

**14**Then the Lord will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning.
The Sovereign Lord will sound the trumpet; he will march in the storms of the south, **15** and the Lord Almighty will shield them. They will destroy and overcome with slingstones. They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar. **16**The Lord their God will save his people on that day as a shepherd saves his flock. They will sparkle in his land like jewels in a crown. **17**How attractive and beautiful they will be! Grain will make the young men thrive, and new wine the young women.