

Zechariah 5:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits.

Analysis

And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits—The angel asks what Zechariah sees, reinforcing observation before interpretation. The scroll's dimensions are enormous: 'esrīm bā'ammāh 'orkāh ve'eser bā'ammāh rochbāh (הָעֶשֶׂר בָּעָשֶׂר בָּאַמְתָּה אֶרְכָּה וְעִשְׂרָה בָּאַמְתָּה) 'twenty by the cubit its length and ten by the cubit its width')—approximately 30 feet by 15 feet, about the size of the Holy Place in the tabernacle (Exodus 26:15-25) and the porch of Solomon's temple (1 Kings 6:3).

The dimensions aren't arbitrary. They link God's written law to His dwelling place—the same proportions where priests ministered and where God's presence manifested. The scroll's temple-sized dimensions declare that the same holy God who dwells among His people also judges covenant violation. You can't separate God's presence from His holiness, His grace from His justice. The flying scroll brings temple-sized holiness into everyday homes (v. 4), measuring secular life by sacred standards. This foreshadows the New Covenant reality where believers become temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), and every aspect of life becomes sacred space accountable to God's law written on hearts (Jeremiah 31:33; 2 Corinthians 3:3).

Historical Context

The specific dimensions would have been immediately recognizable to Jews familiar with tabernacle and temple measurements. The scroll's size makes it unavoidable and undeniable—this isn't private conviction but public proclamation of divine standards. In an era without widespread literacy, a massive flying scroll would capture everyone's attention, symbolizing the universally binding nature of God's law.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why do the scroll's temple dimensions matter—what connection exists between worship and accountability?
2. How does this enormous scroll challenge the idea that God's moral standards are negotiable or private?
3. In what ways does the New Covenant 'internalize' the flying scroll as law written on hearts?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------|-------|--------------------|--------|------------------------|------------|-------|
| רָאָה | אָנָּי | וְאַמְּרָה | רָאָה | אָתָּה | מֵה | אֵלִי | וְאַמְּרָה | רָאָה | אָנָּי | וְאַמְּרָה | רָאָה |
| And he said | H413 | H4100 | H859 | I see | | | And he said | H589 | I see | | |
| | H559 | | | H7200 | | | H559 | H7200 | | | |
| וְרֹחֶב | ה | בְּאַמְּרָה: | עֶפֶת | ה | מִגְּלָה | ה | עֶשֶׂר | יָמִים | אַרְכָּה | עֶפֶת | ה |
| roll | a flying | the length | thereof is twenty | | | | cubits | | and the breadth | | |
| H4039 | H5774 | H753 | H6242 | | | | H520 | | H7341 | | |
| שָׁרֶב | בְּאַמְּרָה: | | | | | | | | | | |
| thereof ten | cubits | | | | | | | | | | |
| H6235 | H520 | | | | | | | | | | |

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org