

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 (עשרים באמה ארכה ועשר באמה רחבה), '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

וַאֲמַר ר	אֵלַי	מִה	אֶתְּה	רָאָה	וַאֲמַר ר	אֲנִי	רָאָה
And he said	H413	H4100	H859	I see	And he said	H589	I see
H559				H7200	H559		H7200
מִגֹּלָה	עָפָה	אֲרָכָהּ	עֶשְׂרִים	בְּאַמָּה:	וְרֹחְבָּהּ		
roll	a flying	the length	thereof is twenty	cubits	and the breadth		
H4039	H5774	H753	H6242	H520	H7341		
עֶשְׂרִים	בְּאַמָּה:						
thereof ten	cubits						
H6235	H520						

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