

Zechariah 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah.

Analysis

And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah—The vision intensifies. A kikkar 'ōpheret (כִּכָּר עֹפֶרֶת, 'talent of lead'), weighing about 75 pounds, serves as a heavy lid covering the ephah basket. When lifted, a woman ('ishshāh, אִשָּׁה) sits inside—yōshevet betōkh hā'ēphāh (יוֹשֶׁבֶת בְּתוֹךְ הָאֵיפָה, 'sitting in the midst of the ephah'). Symbolic imagery: the woman personifies wickedness itself, compressed and contained within the commercial basket that represents Israel's idolatrous materialism.

The lead lid symbolizes divine restraint—wickedness is real and present but God limits its expression until the appointed time of judgment. The woman 'sitting' suggests enthroned wickedness, settled and established within the ephah of economic idolatry. This previews Revelation 17-18's 'woman' Babylon representing corrupt commercial-religious systems. Zechariah's woman embodies the principle that mammon-worship personifies as a seductive but deadly spiritual force. The talent of lead also suggests the crushing weight of sin and the heavy hand required to suppress evil's outbreak.

Historical Context

In post-exilic Judah, economic corruption and materialism had become so entrenched that it functioned like an idol—a false god demanding allegiance. The woman in the basket represents this systemic wickedness that required forcible removal from the land. God wouldn't merely rebuke materialism but would

physically banish it, as the following verses show. The vision prepares for wickedness's exile to Babylon (vv. 10-11).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does wickedness 'sit enthroned' in materialistic systems, becoming personified and worshiped?
2. What does the heavy lead lid teach about God's restraint of evil until judgment day?
3. Where do you see the 'woman in the ephah'—enthroned wickedness in economic systems—today?

Interlinear Text

וְהִנֵּה הַ	כֶּפֶר	רֶתַע	נִשָּׂא אֶת	אִשָּׁה	זֹאת
H2009	a talent	of lead	And behold there was lifted up	H2063	woman
	H3603	H5777	H5375		H802
אֵת	יּוֹשֵׁב בָּת	בֵּת וְ	הָאֵיפָה:		
and this is a	that sitteth	in the midst	of the ephah		
H259	H3427	H8432	H374		

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org