

# Zechariah 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork: and they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven.

## Analysis

**Then lifted I up mine eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came out two women, and the wind was in their wings; for they had wings like the wings of a stork**—Zechariah observes two women (shetayim nāshīm, שְׁתַיִם נָשִׁים) emerging with rūach biknaphēyhem (רוּחַ בְּקִנְפֵּיהֶם, 'wind/spirit in their wings'). They possess kenaphayim kaknaphē hachasidāh (קְנַפִּים כְּקִנְפֵּי חָסִידָה, 'wings like the wings of the stork')—the stork being a large, strong migratory bird capable of long-distance flight, though ritually unclean (Leviticus 11:19; Deuteronomy 14:18).

**And they lifted up the ephah between the earth and the heaven**—The two winged women seize the wickedness-filled basket and vattissē'nāh et-hā'ēphāh bēyn hā'āretz ūvēyn hashshāmayim (וְתַשְׁאַנֵּה אֶת-בָּאֵת בֵּין הָאָרֶץ וּבֵין הַשָּׁמָיִם, 'and they lifted the ephah between the earth and the heaven'). Suspended between earth and sky suggests transportation, removal from one realm to another. The women function as agents executing God's judgment—removing wickedness from Judah and transporting it elsewhere. Their unclean nature (stork wings) suits handling unclean cargo (wickedness). The 'wind in their wings' may be divine enabling or demonic energy—either way, they accomplish God's purposes of purging His land.

## Historical Context

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The imagery of flying women carrying wickedness away symbolizes the complete removal of idolatrous materialism from post-exilic Judah. God promises not mere suppression but exile of wickedness itself—reversing the pattern where Israel went into exile because of sin. Now sin goes into exile so Israel can remain pure. The two women may represent divine judgment executed through various means, or angelic/demonic forces enlisted to accomplish God's purposes.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. Why does God use 'unclean' agents (stork-winged women) to remove unclean wickedness?
2. What does suspension 'between earth and heaven' during wickedness's transport symbolize?
3. How does this vision of sin's exile reverse the pattern of God's people going into exile for sin?

## Interlinear Text

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וְתַשְׁלַחْ אֶת־עֵינֶיךָ	וְתַשְׁלַחْ אֶת־עֵינֶיךָ	וְתַשְׁלַחْ אֶת־עֵינֶיךָ	וְתַשְׁלַחْ אֶת־עֵינֶיךָ	וְתַשְׁלַחْ אֶת־עֵינֶיךָ	וְתַשְׁלַחْ אֶת־עֵינֶיךָ
Then lifted I up	mine eyes	and looked	two	women	
H5375	H5869	H7200	H2009	H8147	H802
וְיָצָאוּ	וְיָצָאוּ	וְיָצָאוּ	וְיָצָאוּ	וְיָצָאוּ	וְיָצָאוּ
and behold there came out	and the wind	like the wings	for they had	like the wings	
H3318	H7307	H3671	H2007	H3671	
כְּכַנְפָּךְ	כְּכַנְפָּךְ	כְּכַנְפָּךְ	כְּכַנְפָּךְ	כְּכַנְפָּךְ	כְּכַנְפָּךְ
like the wings	of a stork	Then lifted I up	the ephah		
H3671	H2624	H5375	H853	H374	H996
בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין	בֵּין
between the earth	and the heaven				
H776	H996	H8064			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 28:49** (Parallel theme): The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

**Hosea 8:1** (Parallel theme): Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.