

EXILE AND RETURN Lesson 19

FIRST DAY

Read Lesson 18 Notes

SECOND DAY:

Read Zechariah 5:1-4

The Flying Scroll

[5:1] 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, thirty feet long and fifteen 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 him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones.’

Question 3

Deuteronomy 17:18-19; [18] When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. [19] It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees

Exodus 20:1-21; The Ten Commandments

[20:1] And God spoke all these words:

[2] “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

[3] “You shall have no other gods before me.

[4] “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. [5] You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, [6] but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

[7] “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

[8] “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. [9] Six days you shall labor and do all your work, [10] but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. [11] For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

[12] “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

[13] “You shall not murder.

[14] “You shall not commit adultery.

[15] “You shall not steal.

[16] “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

[17] “You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

[18] When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance [19] and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”

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[20] Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.”

[21] The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

Question 4a

Matthew 22:36-40; [36] “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

[37] Jesus replied: “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**” [38] **This is the first and greatest commandment.** [39] **And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’** [40] **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

Question 5

Romans 3:10-13; [10] The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

[11] “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. [12] His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

2 Corinthians 5:21; [21] God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Galatians 3:13; [13] Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

THIRD Day:

Read Zechariah 5:5-11

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 this is that is appearing.”

[6] I asked, “What is it?”

He replied, “It is a measuring 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 the lead cover down over its mouth.

[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 it is ready, the basket will be set there in its place.”

Question 6

Genesis 10:9-10; [9] He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD.” [10] The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Erech, Akkad and Calneh, in Shinar.

Genesis 11:1-9; The Tower of Babel

[11:1] Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. [2] As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

[3] They said to each other, “Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead

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of stone, and tar for mortar. [4] Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

[5] But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building. [6] The LORD said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. [7] Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

[8] So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. [9] That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

2 Chronicles 36:15-21;

The Fall of Jerusalem

[15] The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. [16] But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. [17] He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar. [18] He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. [19] They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

[20] He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. [21] The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.

Revelation 17-18;

Revelation 17

The Woman on the Beast

[17:1] One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. [2] With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.”

[3] Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. [4] The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries. [5] This title was written on her forehead:

MYSTERY

BABYLON THE GREAT

THE MOTHER OF PROSTITUTES

AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

[6] I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.

When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. [7] Then the angel said to me: “Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns. [8] The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because he once was, now is not, and yet will come.

[9] “This calls for a mind with wisdom. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits. [10] They are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; but when he does come,

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he must remain for a little while. [11] The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king. He belongs to the seven and is going to his destruction.

[12] “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. [13] They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast. [14] They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

[15] Then the angel said to me, “The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages. [16] The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire. [17] For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose by agreeing to give the beast their power to rule, until God's words are fulfilled. [18] The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.”

Revelation 18

The Fall of Babylon

[18:1] After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. [2] With a mighty voice he shouted:

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!
She has become a home for demons
and a haunt for every evil spirit,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.
[3] For all the nations have drunk
the maddening wine of her adulteries.
The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her
excessive luxuries.”

[4] Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“Come out of her, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;
[5] for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.
[6] Give back to her as she has given;

pay her back double for what she has done.
Mix her a double portion from her own cup.

[7] Give her as much torture and grief
as the glory and luxury she gave herself.

In her heart she boasts,
‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow,
and I will never mourn.’

[8] Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake
her:

death, mourning and famine.
She will be consumed by fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

[9] “When the kings of the earth who committed
adultery with her and shared her luxury see the
smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over
her. [10] Terrified at her torment, they will stand far
off and cry:

“‘Woe! Woe, O great city,
O Babylon, city of power!
In one hour your doom has come!’

[11] “The merchants of the earth will weep and
mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes
any more— [12] cargoes of gold, silver, precious
stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet
cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every
kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and
marble; [13] cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of
incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive
oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses
and carriages; and bodies and souls of men.

[14] “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone
from you. All your riches and splendor have
vanished, never to be recovered.’ [15] The merchants
who sold these things and gained their wealth from
her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They
will weep and mourn [16] and cry out:

“‘Woe! Woe, O great city,
dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet,
and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!
[17] In one hour such great wealth has been brought
to ruin!’

“Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the
sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea,
will stand far off. [18] When they see the smoke of
her burning, they will exclaim, ‘Was there ever a city
like this great city?’ [19] They will throw dust on
their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out:

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“Woe! Woe, O great city,
where all who had ships on the sea
became rich through her wealth!
In one hour she has been brought to ruin!
[20] Rejoice over her, O heaven!
Rejoice, saints and apostles and prophets!
God has judged her for the way she treated you.”

[21] Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said:

“With such violence
the great city of Babylon will be thrown down,
never to be found again.
[22] The music of harpists and musicians, flute
players and trumpeters,
will never be heard in you again.
No workman of any trade
will ever be found in you again.
The sound of a millstone
will never be heard in you again.
[23] The light of a lamp
will never shine in you again.
The voice of bridegroom and bride
will never be heard in you again.
Your merchants were the world's great men.
By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.
[24] In her was found the blood of prophets and of
the saints,
and of all who have been killed on the earth.”

Question 7b

2 Corinthians 4:16-18; [16] Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. [17] For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. [18] So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Revelation 21:10,27; [10] And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

[27] Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

FOURTH DAY:

Read Zechariah 6:1-8

Four Chariots

[6:1] 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.”

Question 10a

Zechariah 1:7-17; **The Man Among the Myrtle Trees**

[7] On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo.

[8] During the night I had a vision—and there before me was a man riding a red horse! He was standing among the myrtle trees in a ravine. Behind him were red, brown and white horses.

[9] I asked, “What are these, my lord?”

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The angel who was talking with me answered, “I will show you what they are.”

[10] Then the man standing among the myrtle trees explained, “They are the ones the LORD has sent to go throughout the earth.”

[11] And they reported to the angel of the LORD, who was standing among the myrtle trees, “We have gone throughout the earth and found the whole world at rest and in peace.”

[12] Then the angel of the LORD said, “LORD Almighty, how long will you withhold mercy from Jerusalem and from the towns of Judah, which you have been angry with these seventy years?” [13] So the LORD spoke kind and comforting words to the angel who talked with me.

[14] Then the angel who was speaking to me said, “Proclaim this word: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion, [15] but I am very angry with the nations that feel secure. I was only a little angry, but they added to the calamity.’

[16] “Therefore, this is what the LORD says: ‘I will return to Jerusalem with mercy, and there my house will be rebuilt. And the measuring line will be stretched out over Jerusalem,’ declares the LORD Almighty.

[17] “Proclaim further: This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘My towns will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and choose Jerusalem.’”

FIFTH DAY

Read Zechariah 6:9-15

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 Jehozadak. [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.”

Question 13

Isaiah 4:2; 11:10; The Branch of the LORD

[2] In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel.

[10] In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

Jeremiah 23:5; [5] “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,

“when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.

Zechariah 3:8; [8] ““Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch.

Question 14a

Hebrews 7:24-28; [24] but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. [25] Therefore he is able to save completely those who

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come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

[26] Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. [27] Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. [28] For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 9:11-12; The Blood of Christ

[11] When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. [12] He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 10:12; [12] But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

Romans 8:34; [34] Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Question 14b

Matthew 25:31; The Sheep and the Goats

[31] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

Ephesians 1:20-22; [20] which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, [21] far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only

in the present age but also in the one to come. [22] And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,

Philippians 2:9-11; [9] Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

[10] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 1:5; [5] and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

SIXTH DAY:

Review Zechariah 5-6

The Flying Scroll

[5:1] 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, thirty feet long and fifteen 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

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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 him who swears falsely by my name. It will remain in his house and destroy it, both its timbers and its stones.'"

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[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 it is ready, the basket will be set there in its place."

Zechariah 6

Four Chariots

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[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 Jehozadak. [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."

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