

“To Hell in a Basket”
Zechariah 5:5-11
The Seventh Vision: The Woman in the Basket

All sin and wickedness will be banished to a place prepared by God!

1. The Vision – Its Parts and Their Significance

(1) A Basket – about to be “shipped out!” *“Lift up your eyes and see what this is that is going out...This is the basket that is going out.”*

- **An Ephah** (literally)
 - 3/5 of a bushel; a measure of volume
 - Used extensively in trade and commerce – so a natural emblem of trade and commerce
- **A Leaden Lid** – a talent of lead in a disc shape (Heb. wd. lit.: “a circle”)
 - A fixed weight – the largest measure of quantity.
 - Used in commercial transactions to weigh out \$

(2) A Woman in the Basket! *“And he said, ‘This is their iniquity in all the land.’*

- **Emblematic of Israel’s wickedness**
 - And behold, the leaden cover was lifted,*
 - and there was a woman sitting in the basket!*
 - And he said, ‘This is Wickedness.’*
 - And he thrust her back into the basket, and*
 - thrust down the leaden weight on its opening.”*
 - “This is their appearance in all the land”
 - “This is Wickedness”
 - Particularly in view? Israel’s sin with respect to trade and greed and commercialism.

- **The woman crammed into the basket!**

(3) The Basket taken away! *“...behold, two women...they had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.”*

- **By two women with wings – In this vision, evidently agents of the divine will.**
- **Taken to the land of Shinar** *“To the land of Shinar, to build a house for it.*
And when this is prepared,
they will set the basket down there on its base.”
 - **Shinar** = Babylonia?
 - But Gen. 10:10 and 11:2 The land in which Nimrod founded the first empire.
- **A house prepared/established for it – A temple; a shrine to human rebellion**
- **The basket to be set there** – set upon its own base; set where it belongs;
a permanent place

2. The Vision – Its Meaning

(1) All Wickedness Portrayed

- **The seductive nature of sin and wickedness** - cf. Prov. 5-7
- **The deceptive nature of sin (caught in one’s own sins)** cf. Prov. 5:22
- **The bondage of sin – its oppressive nature (crammed into the basket!)**

(2) All Wickedness is Confined, Contained!

- **The sovereign hand of God – His complete control over sin and evil**
 - The counsel of the Lord shall stand!
 - Sinful man *not* the ‘captain of his own destiny!’ – suspended between heaven and earth!

(3) All Wickedness will be Banished - Judged!

- **1- Temporal Judgment** – The wicked of the land banished to their proper place
- **2- Eternal Judgment – The Final destination of all of the wicked: Hell**
 - **A place prepared for the reprobate!**
 - Contrast our Lord’s promise to His own! “I go to prepare a place for you.”
 - **A permanent place**
 - **Confined, entombed entirely in the consequences of the sin in which they lived.**
 - **All of wickedness crammed into one place!**
 - Where is hell?** We don’t know.
 - But it is nowhere to be seen in the new heavens and new earth!
 - Will we think about the wicked when we are in heaven?**
 - How big is hell?** It might be surmised that it is very small indeed!