

- Last week we started looking at the Prophet Zechariah, including an overview of whole book. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=106lfO6Kc0&t=17s>). We focused on chapters 5-8 and the continuing night visions of Zechariah and what they meant, including the flying scroll (Zechariah 5:1-4), the woman in the basket Zechariah 5:5-10), and riders on patrol (Zechariah 6:1-8). We talked about a waking vision Zechariah also had which included Joshua (Zechariah 6:9-15). We focused on symbolism of Joshua, and the New Jerusalem. We concluded by discussing the rise of the Roman Empire and how they built roads worldwide which continue to be very durable, and made them safe with their army.
- This week we are going to continue to look at the conclusion of the book of Zechariah. His dreams and visions are now over and he dedicates the end of the book to poetic language which he will use to predict the new Kingdom and the coming of Jesus. Then we will turn our attention to the Seleucids and the Ptolemys. We talked about how after the death of Alexander the Great the Greek empire was split into four parts, one of which was the Roman part which would eventually conquer the other three parts. Two of these parts were the Seleucid Empire and the Ptolemaic Empire which we will discuss today.
- God starts to summarize to Hezekiah what He plans to do by first talking about how He plans to eliminate Israel's enemies because the whole world is watching to see what happens (Zechariah 9:1-8)
- God tells Zechariah how Jesus will come on a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9-10)
- That is exactly how it happened. (Matthew 21:1-5)
- God says to Zechariah that one day He will, because of the "blood of My covenant with you" they will "drink and be boisterous as with wine" and that the Lord would "save them in that day." (Zechariah 9:11-17)
- Christ said the wine that we take at communion is representative of his blood shed under the new covenant. (Luke 22:20)
- On the day of Pentecost, there was a great noise when all those who received the power of the Holy Spirit were speaking in many languages together, just like they were boisterous with wine. (Acts 2:1-15)
- God tells Zechariah He plans to bless the tribe of Judah specifically, and mentions that "from them will come the cornerstone." (Zechariah 10)
- Christ was of the tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:2-3, Luke 3:33, Hebrews 7:14) and was called the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:19-22). Architecturally, the cornerstone is the anchor around which the whole structure is built.
- God tells Zechariah that Israel is like a flock without a shepherd but that he will send a shepherd, but that one will eventually leave people on their own again. (Zechariah 11)
- God tells Zechariah that he will continue to punish Jerusalem but that one day He will "pour out" His "spirit of grace and supplication" on the "house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem" so that they will mourn over the one they have pierced. (Zechariah 12)
- We looked above at Acts 2:1-15 which is what happened at Pentecost. Peter mentions that is exactly what the prophets predicted, using Joel as an example (he could just as easily have used this passage in Zechariah also) (Acts 2:16-21) and as Peter preached to them

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they were pierced just like Zechariah said they would be, Peter tells them the only solution is to be baptized ([Acts 2:37-39](#))

- God concludes by speaking through Zechariah again and says that God will eventually shame all those who would oppose Him and that He will create a new Jerusalem which will bring peace to all nations. ([Zechariah 13, 14](#))
- We will turn our attention back to history again. We looked at how God waited until just right time for Christ's first coming which is what was meant by the "fullness of time." ([Galatians 4:4-7](#)) We also talked about how the empires predicted by Daniel ([Daniel 2](#)) contributed their own element which helped the Gospel spread: The Persians (mass communication) the Greeks (common language) and the Romans (solid and safe infrastructure). Finally, we talked about how after the Greek empire fell apart after Alexander the Great's death and how four kingdoms resulted, and how one, the Roman empire, would eventually conquer the other three.
- Today we are going to look at two of those other three – the Seleucids and the Ptolemys. The Seleucid empire was essentially established in the old Babylonia (what is now the Iran/Syria area). At its height, it ran from Turkey through Iran and Syria to parts of Pakistan. Eventually they ceded parts of the east near India in exchange for elephants which they used in battle in Europe to great advantage. They could not beat back the Ptolemys with whom they were rivals, and they eventually collapsed under their own weight. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seleucid_Empire
- The Ptolemaic empire was centered in Egypt but they were stilling ruling in a Greek way. Ultimately, they were overthrown by revolt. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ptolemaic_Kingdom)

Questions:

1. Why does God say He will eliminate Israel's enemies?
2. What animal does God tell Zechariah Jesus will ride, and why is that significant?
3. Why does God say that He will save people in the end?
4. What signifies this for us today?
5. What does God mean when He says one day people will drink and be boisterous as with wine?
6. What is the significance of the fact that God says the cornerstone will come from Judah?
7. Will Israel always be like a flock without a shepherd?
8. What does it mean to be pierced? What is the only solution to a pierced heart?
9. What will the new Jerusalem do?
10. Who were the Seleucids and where were they physically?
11. Who were the Ptolemies and where were they physically?